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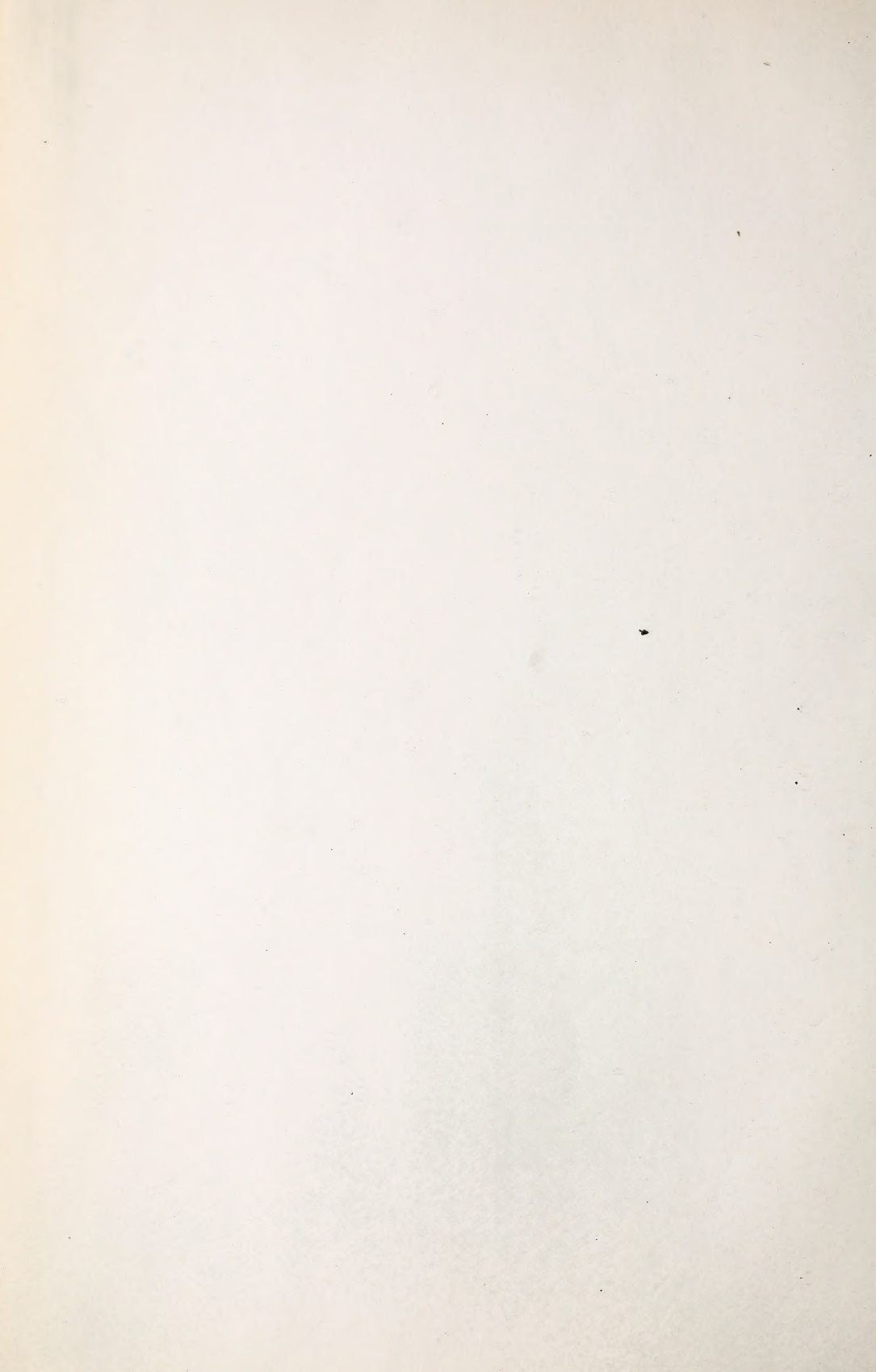


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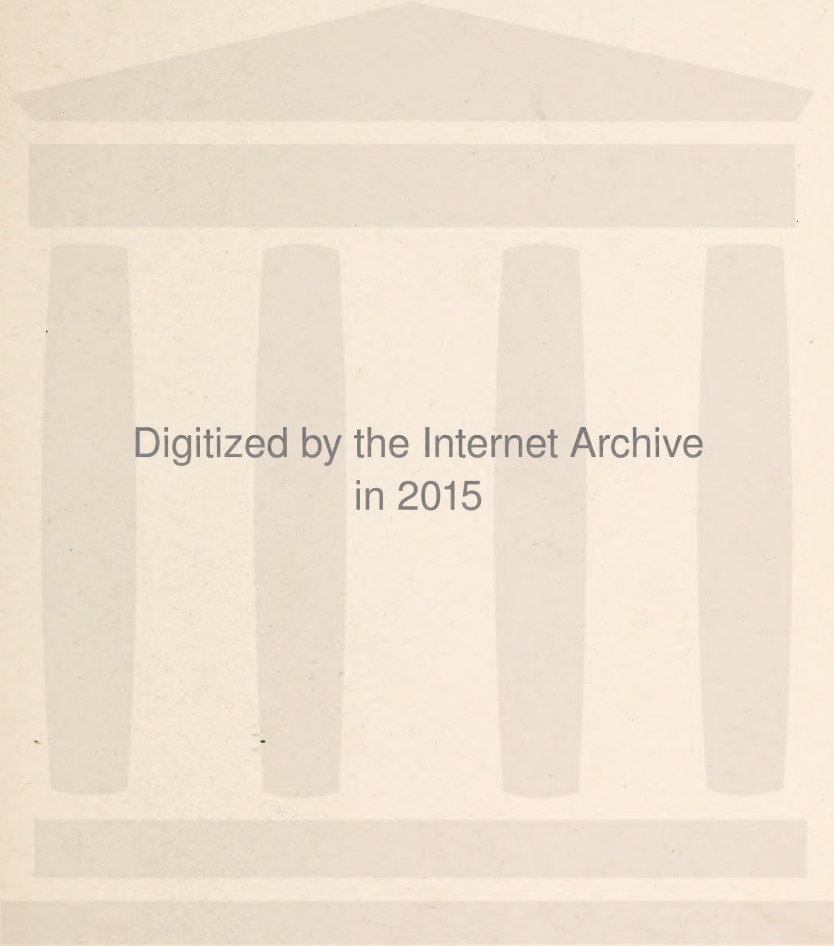


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# HISTORY

OF

## WORCESTER COUNTY,

MASSACHUSETTS,

EMBRACING A

COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY OF THE COUNTY

FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME,

WITH A

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF ITS CITIES AND TOWNS.

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*Illustrated.*

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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BOSTON:  
C. F. JEWETT AND COMPANY.  
1879.

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## CONTENTS.

### VOL. II.

#### TOWNS IN WORCESTER COUNTY.

	PAGE
LEOMINSTER, . . . . .	1
LUNENBURG, . . . . .	28
MENDON, . . . . .	42
MILFORD, . . . . .	64
MILLBURY, . . . . .	100
NEW BRAINTREE, . . . . .	118
NORTHBOROUGH, . . . . .	128
NORTHBRIDGE, . . . . .	140
OAKHAM, . . . . .	157
OXFORD, . . . . .	169
PAXTON, . . . . .	189
PETERSHAM, . . . . .	199
PHILLIPSTON, . . . . .	215
PRINCETON, . . . . .	228
ROYALSTON, . . . . .	243
RUTLAND, . . . . .	258
SHREWSBURY, . . . . .	269
SOUTHBOROUGH, . . . . .	284
SOUTHBRIDGE, . . . . .	295
SPENCER, . . . . .	314
STERLING, . . . . .	340
STURBRIDGE, . . . . .	353
SUTTON, . . . . .	372
TEMPLETON, . . . . .	389
UPTON, . . . . .	409
UXBRIDGE, . . . . .	421
WARREN, . . . . .	437
WEBSTER, . . . . .	456
WESTBOROUGH, . . . . .	479
WEST BOYLSTON, . . . . .	500
WESTMINSTER, . . . . .	515
WINCHENDON, . . . . .	526
WORCESTER, . . . . .	548

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## INDEX TO TOWNS.

	PAGE
LEOMINSTER, . . . . .	669
LUNENBURG, . . . . .	670
MENDON, . . . . .	671
MILFORD, . . . . .	672
MILLBURY, . . . . .	673
NEW BRAINTREE, . . . . .	675
NORTHBOROUGH, . . . . .	675
NORTHBRIDGE, . . . . .	676
OAKHAM, . . . . .	677
OXFORD, . . . . .	678
PAXTON, . . . . .	680
PETERSHAM, . . . . .	680
PHILLIPSTON, . . . . .	681
PRINCETON, . . . . .	682
ROYALSTON, . . . . .	683
RUTLAND, . . . . .	684
SHREWSBURY, . . . . .	685
SOUTHBOROUGH, . . . . .	686
SOUTHBRIDGE, . . . . .	687
SPENCER, . . . . .	688
STERLING, . . . . .	689
STURBRIDGE, . . . . .	690
SUTTON, . . . . .	692
TEMPLETON, . . . . .	693
UPTON, . . . . .	694
UXBRIDGE, . . . . .	695
WARREN, . . . . .	696
WEBSTER, . . . . .	698
WESTBOROUGH, . . . . .	699
WEST BOYLSTON, . . . . .	700
WESTMINSTER, . . . . .	701
WINCHENDON, . . . . .	702
WORCESTER, . . . . .	704



# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

---

The Salisbury Place, Leominster, . . . . .	Facing page	16
Manufactory of Joslin & Williams, Leominster, . . . . .	"	24
Hopedale Machine Company's Works, Milford, . . . . .	"	80
Estabrook, Wires & Co.'s Factory, . . . . .	"	96
Portrait of Rev. Peter Whitney, . . . . .	"	130
Old Homestead of Rev. Peter Whitney, Northborough, . . . . .	"	136
Whitinsville Cotton Mills, Northbridge, . . . . .	"	142
The Whitin Machine Works, " . . . . .	"	142
Linwood Mill — Whitin Bros., " . . . . .	"	144
Paul Whitin Manufacturing Company's Mill, Northbridge, . . . . .	"	144
Memorial Building, Northbridge, . . . . .	"	152
Wachusett House, Princeton, . . . . .	"	232
Residence of Thomas Rice, Shrewsbury, . . . . .	"	272
Old Homestead of Maj. Gen. A. Ward, Shrewsbury, . . . . .	"	280
Sumner House, Shrewsbury, . . . . .	"	280
Southbridge Print Works, Southbridge, . . . . .	"	302
Marcy Homestead, " . . . . .	"	310
Town Hall, Spencer, . . . . .	"	316
Pope Mansion, Spencer, . . . . .	"	320
Josiah Green & Co.'s Boot-factory, Spencer, . . . . .	"	334
Residence of Levi Wilson, Uxbridge, . . . . .	"	424
C. A. & S. M. Wheelock's Mill, Uxbridge, . . . . .	"	432
Rivulet Mill, Uxbridge, . . . . .	"	432
Residence of H. N. Slater, Webster, . . . . .	"	464
H. N. Slater's Cambric Works, " . . . . .	"	464
Portrait of Samuel Slater, " . . . . .	"	468
H. N. Slater's Cotton Mill, " . . . . .	"	470
" " Woolen Mill, " . . . . .	"	470

The Dr. William Paine House, Worcester, . . . . .	Facing page 550
The Chandler House, Worcester, . . . . .	“ 550
Forehand & Wadsworth Manufactory, Worcester, . . . . .	“ 554
Loring Coes & Co.'s Wrench-factory, “ . . . . .	“ 554
Works of Rice, Barton & Fales, “ . . . . .	“ 560
Washburn Iron Company's Works, “ . . . . .	“ 560
Old South Church, Worcester, . . . . .	“ 564
All Saints' Church, “ . . . . .	“ 568
Salisbury Mansion, “ . . . . .	“ 572
Public Library Building, Worcester, . . . . .	“ 572
Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Co.'s Works, Worcester, . . . . .	“ 578
Residence of A. Macullar, Worcester, . . . . .	“ 584
“ “ Geo. Crompton, “ . . . . .	“ 584
J. H. & G. M. Walker's Factory, “ . . . . .	“ 590
Manufactory of T. K. Earle & Co. “ . . . . .	“ 590
Residence of T. K. Earle, “ . . . . .	“ 596
Residence of Loring Coes, “ . . . . .	“ 596
Crompton Loom Works, “ . . . . .	“ 602
Crompton Carpet Co. “ . . . . .	“ 602
Residence of J. H. Walker, “ . . . . .	“ 608
Residence of Geo. S. Barton, “ . . . . .	“ 608
Union Passenger Station, “ . . . . .	“ 614
Residence of Warren McFarland, “ . . . . .	“ 620
Residence of J. Edwin Smith, “ . . . . .	“ 620
Portrait of Levi Lincoln, “ . . . . .	“ 632
Ames Plow Company's Building, “ . . . . .	“ 638
Salisbury Building, “ . . . . .	“ 638
Arcade Malleable Iron Works, “ . . . . .	“ 644
E. W. Vaill's Chair Works, “ . . . . .	“ 644
Stephen Salisbury's Factories, “ . . . . .	“ 656
Portrait of Ichabod Washburn, “ . . . . .	“ 660



# HISTORY OF WORCESTER COUNTY.

VOL. II.

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## LEOMINSTER.

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BY HON. CHARLES H. MERRIAM.

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### CHAPTER I.

ORIGINAL GRANTS — BOUNDARIES AND SURFACE — GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE —  
STREAMS AND WATER-SYSTEM — FREEDOM FROM INDIANS — FIRST SETTLE-  
MENT — PROPRIETORS' AGREEMENT — PROGRESS — FAVORABLE SITUATION —  
INDIAN DEED OF THE TOWN.

THIS town, situated in the north-easterly part of the county of Worcester, forty miles by carriage-road and forty-six miles by the Fitchburg Railroad, and fifty-three miles by the Old Colony Railroad, from Boston, and twenty miles from Worcester, was formerly — a large share of it — a part of Lancaster; being substantially the northerly half of what was called the "Lancaster New" or "Additional Grant," a tract of land conveyed by George Tahanto, Sagamore of the Nashua tribe of Indians, to *Insigne* John Moore, John Houghton, and Nathaniel Wilder, dated June 13, 1701, and recorded in the Proprietors' Records, now deposited with the records of the town of Leominster, and confirmed to the town of Lancaster by an order of the General Court, passed Nov. 21 and 22, 1711. To this was afterwards added, by chapter 106, Acts of 1838, a part of the unincorporated land lying westerly of the first tract, called "No Town." The first tract contained 16,602 acres, or thirty-eight acres less than twenty-six square miles, according to a survey made by Jonas Kendall, Charles Grout, Levi Nichols, David Wilder, and Joseph G. Kendall, as a committee of the town, in the year 1830; and the second, or "No Town" tract, about 2,000 acres, or a little over three square miles, making the present area about twenty-nine square miles. This territory is mostly quite regular in shape, and is bounded northerly by Fitchburg and Lunenburg; easterly, by Lunenburg and Lancaster; southerly, by Sterling; and westerly by Princeton and Westminster. The Lancaster "New Grant," including that part of it now

in Sterling, was described by the committee of the Council sent out to examine it, while the subject of confirmation was before the General Court, as "rocky and mountainous and poorly accommodated with meadow." Such, however, would not seem to be a fair description of it at the present time; certainly not that part of it in Leominster, the town of Leominster being considered one of the best agricultural towns in the county. It is true that the surface is uneven and that there are twelve distinct hills, of greater or less magnitude, dotting the various sections, the names of which are "Bigelow Hill," "North Monoosnock Hill," "Carter Hill," "Nichols' Hill," and "Houghton Hill," in the northern portion; "South Monoosnock Hill," "Sheldon Hill," "Gardner Hill," "Baberry Hill," and "Long Hill," in the central; and "Rocky Hill" and "Bee," or "Legate Hill," in the southern portion. But only a small portion of the town is mountainous or abrupt in formation, and seven out of the twelve hills are cultivated, or capable of cultivation, to their very tops, having good roads over them, accessible in all parts for agricultural purposes, and furnishing some of the best grass and tillage land in the State. The other hills, especially North and South Monoosnock, are, in some parts, high, steep, and of granite formation; and grow nothing in these parts, and furnish nothing of value, except wood and a handsome variety of dark granite, suitable for building purposes and stonemasonry generally, for which it has been, and is now, used quite extensively in town and somewhat elsewhere. Other portions of the five hills are cultivated, and furnish excellent pasture and mowing land. South Monoosnock has an elevation of 1,020 feet above sea-level, and, in its central position, towers in its ruggedness above all its fellows; in combination with Nichols, North Monoosnock, Carter, Sheldon, Gardner, Baberry, Long and Rocky Hills, it forms a view of rich, elevated land and rugged hill-scenery through the westerly part of the town, of rare beauty, and, as seen from some points, hardly anywhere excelled.

The southerly portion of the town is plain land, flat or undulating, and of sandy formation, and, while there is some good farming-land in this section, the soil is much of it light and unfit for cultivation or grass. The valleys of the Nashua and other streams contain fine intervale lands, producing good crops of grass without much cultivation; and the uplands, which are generally of a strong, clayey soil, make excellent farms for the usual crops grown in Massachusetts, and especially for the more hardy fruits, such as apples and pears, to which they are largely devoted.

The geological formation is the Merrimack schist. In a portion of the centre village a very hard blue ledge comes nearly to the surface, and wells cannot be dug without blasting, while the water obtained is quite hard, though perhaps not unhealthy. In another section, on the plain lands, no water can be reached without going down from sixty to eighty feet. Generally, however, there is an abundant supply of good water, in wells of reasonable depth, for domestic uses. Clay of good quality for bricks, and sand for mortar, are found here at



several points; and there was a good supply of field-stones in most parts of the town for fencing, to which use they have been largely devoted on the farms, and for rough walls and other purposes.

The "Nashua," or, as it was sometimes called in old records, "North" river, which enters the town from Fitchburg on the north-westerly side about a mile and a half from the most northerly corner thereof, is joined soon after by Baker's Brook, also coming in from Fitchburg. A little farther north is a large stream, which flows through the north village by a pretty direct course south-easterly to the town of Lancaster, at a point about a mile and a half from the south-easterly corner of Leominster, cutting the town of Leominster into two sections, and leaving about one-sixth of the whole territory on the north-easterly side of the river. This river, most of the way in Leominster, passes through a wide and comparatively level valley, though at some points having sufficient fall to give excellent water-power. Four privileges have already been developed in town, where a large amount of machinery is run; and there are other places on the stream where good water-privileges might be taken up. The valley of this stream, for a considerable part of the distance in Leominster, is formed on its southerly side by high, steep banks, which appear to have been made by the wearing away of the deep, loose, gravely formation by the action of the water in the time of freshets, during the long ages it has been working. Some of these banks are as much as seventy-five feet high, and are carved out as if done by the hand of art, leaving wide tracts of rich level grass land renewed from year to year by the overflow. The "Scar," at the turn on Main Street near the north village, is a sample of this working. The river at some places is still busily wearing away these formations, bringing down the stately trees with giant power, and enlarging the area over which, in spring, it roams at will, fertilizing and making productive its domain. Nothing could be more grand than the thought of this silent but stupendous work, or more lovely than some of these dales in summer.

The town is also divided again near its centre by "Monoosnock Brook," another considerable stream, rising in "Rocky Pond," in Leominster, and flowing northerly through the Leominster Reservoir, and through a portion of Fitchburg, back into Leominster, entering it on the same side as the Nashua, farther south, and passing by a circuitous route through the centre village, over a rapidly-descending surface to the Nashua River below the north village. It furnishes a large number of mill-sites, eleven of which, within two miles' distance in the centre village, have been taken up and afford power, with the aid of the Leominster Reservoir, built by James II. Carter and other manufacturers on the stream in 1850, for an extensive and profitable business in various departments of manufacture; and there are other sites in town on this stream which can be taken up if wanted. "Morse Brook," with its tributaries, "Slack Brook," "Hale Brook," "Haynes Brook," and "Quarter-of-a-Mile Brook," all rising in Leominster, and emptying into "Monoos-

nock Brook" in Morseville, near the centre village, has a large amount of fall: and up to the time of the construction of the Leominster water-works, which take their supply from this brook, it furnished a good deal of water-power, privileges having been taken up and developed at five different places thereon.

"Fall Brook," the next largest brook in town, rises near Baberry Hill, in the southerly part of the town, and flows circuitously in an easterly direction into the Nashua River near Lancaster line. This stream has a branch which rises near Sheldon Hill, in "Colburn Reservoir," and which, for the want of any other name, we call "Colburn Brook," flows easterly through a portion of the centre village, having considerable fall, and furnishing, with the aid of the reservoir above, a considerable amount of power, which has been taken up at three different places. It empties into Fall Brook in the easterly part of the town. A tributary of Colburn Brook, called "Wood's Brook," rises near Long Hill, and, running easterly and northerly, empties into Colburn Brook between Union and Pleasant streets. Wood's Brook is not large enough to furnish water-power worth utilizing. Fall Brook has at present but one mill-site in use on it; but it is a very permanent stream, and up to its ordinary flow furnishes as uniform power during all seasons as any stream in town. Fall Brook has another branch, called "Kendall Brook," rising near Bee Hill, which runs northerly, furnishing power for the Davis shop, and empties into Fall Brook near the Nashua River in the easterly part of the town.

"Bartlett Brook," in the south-westerly corner of the town, rises near Baberry Hill, and flows southerly, furnishing power to Bartlett's mill, into the town of Sterling.

Chualoom Brook, the outlet of the pond of that name, lying mostly in Lunenburg, flows southerly through a portion of Leominster into Lunenburg, where it empties into Massapoag Pond. It is not now used for power, although it formerly had a mill on it, with considerable machinery run by it. White's Pond, lying mostly in Lancaster, has its outlet in Leominster, which forms a brook called "White's Brook," and which flows westerly and southerly into the Nashua River, but is not used for power. There are some other small brooks in town, draining small areas, and furnishing water for some purposes; but these are not of much magnitude. The town has but one natural pond of much size wholly within its limits, which is Rocky Pond, in the south-westerly part of the town, in what formerly was "No Town." This pond has an area of about ten acres, is quite deep, and is the principal source of Monoosnock Brook; it formerly contained a large quantity of fish.

The easterly line of the town includes a small portion of White's Pond, and the north-easterly line a small part of Chualoom Pond. With these ponds and streams scattered over its surface, but a small portion of the town is deficient in a good natural supply of water; but the part not supplied is an important



one, embracing a section of the centre village, and the land near to it, being that most wanted, in the growth of the town, for building purposes. Nature, however, has prepared one of the best places anywhere to be found, within our own borders, for supplying this deficiency, as well as for supplying pure aqueduct water generally, which, by the construction of the water-works, has been made available on substantially all the streets in both villages.

In addition to these many desirable qualities, this land, when taken possession of by the first settlers, was covered with a magnificent growth of walnut, oak, birch, maple, pine, chestnut, hemlock, and other varieties, of wood and timber. Taking, then, into account all the physical features of value and attraction, it is easy to see why our fathers selected this place for the building of a home, notwithstanding the unfavorable report of it referred to; and to find in them an important reason why they and their descendants have so abundantly flourished here.

The town of Leominster is substantially devoid of Indian history. It is true that the whole territory of this town, as was also that of many other towns around, was originally owned by Sholan, or Shauman, sachem of the Nashaways, whose residence and headquarters was Waushacum, now Sterling, and was occupied as hunting-grounds by him and his tribe. Very little, however, is now known about the connection of these Indians with the land composing the town of Leominster, the tribe having ceased to exist in any organized form in this region before the Lancaster new grant was much settled by white men, or the town of Leominster had been incorporated. It does not now appear that any of these Indians ever had a permanent place of residence within the boundaries of this town, or that they ever used any of this land for other than hunting purposes, or that they ever troubled any white inhabitant of the town after it was settled. This may have been, and probably was, owing somewhat to the fact that the land had been purchased of the chief, and paid for to his full satisfaction, and that no dispute or ill-feeling, so far as is known, ever arose between the purchasers of this land and the Indians about the title to it, although the grant embraced the home and headquarters of the chief; also to the fact that the power, and with it the courage and spirit, of the tribe and its rulers, had been thoroughly broken by the deadly contests with the earlier settlers in the region for possession of and supremacy over the land which had come down to them as the home of their fathers, — for how many generations there is no record, — and which they valued as hunting-grounds, and for its productions, with which to support themselves and their children; and which they loved as a home, in some degree as we love it now. This had resulted in great slaughter and defeat; and from the effects of this, and the advancing civilization brought by the new settlers, they seem, as a tribe, to have gone into eternal oblivion.

The first organized movement made by individuals, looking to the division and settlement of the Lancaster new grant, was made at a town meeting in

Lancaster, Feb. 5th, 1711, N. S., by the preparation and partial execution of the following agreement, the signing of which, by the persons whose names are attached thereto, was afterwards completed according to its terms, so far as is known, viz. : —

*"Know all men by these presents that we y<sup>e</sup> subscribers being desirous to joine in y<sup>e</sup> purchasing of a tract of land which lyeth on the west side of the township of Lancaster, which lands have been formerly petitioned for to the General Court which the Inhabitants of said Lancaster are still in pursuance of, and their petition is now with y<sup>e</sup> Court for granting the same, and considerable money hath already been paid to George Tahanto and other Indians towards the purchasing of said land though not as yet consummated. Wee the subscribers do hereby bind ourselves our heirs executors & administrators firmly by these presents each one his & theire equall share of the purchase of said land & of all charges that have or shall be necessairely expended about the same: and to run equall hazard of obtaining y<sup>e</sup> said land, Provided that if the said land be obtained we shall have each one an equall share of it, considered as to quantity and quality: and the whole of the money to be paid unto such person of the town as shall be appointed by them to receive the same: at or before y<sup>e</sup> fifth day of March next: & shall subscribe hereto at or before the 15th day of February current: or else to lay no claim to the said land. Dated February y<sup>e</sup> fifth 1710-11. Some of y<sup>e</sup> persons subscribed y<sup>e</sup> same day: and others had their names entered afterwards, the whole being ninety-eight that were the purchasers of said Land.*

John Prentice.  
David Whetcomb.  
Jonas Houghton, Jr.  
John Houghton, Sen.  
John Harress.  
Jonathan Wheeler.  
Joseph Houghton.  
Edward Hartwell.  
Bezaleel Sawyer.  
Thomas Wilder, Sen.  
Joshua Atherton.  
Matthew Stone.  
Henry Willard.  
Josiah White, Jun<sup>r</sup>.  
James Snow.  
John Willard.  
Gabriel Priest.  
Ephraim Wilder.  
Ebenezer Beaman.  
James Atherton, Jun<sup>r</sup>.  
Joseph Hutchins.  
James Houghton.  
Benjamin Houghton.  
Peter Joslin.  
Jonathan Willard.  
Joseph Fairbank.  
William Sawyer.  
William Houghton.  
Josiah White, Sen<sup>r</sup>.  
Mary Wilder, Widow.  
Jonathan Wilder.  
James Wilder.  
Thomas Ross.

Jonathan Moor.  
Samuell Carter.  
Thomas Carter.  
Nathanil Wilder.  
Benjamin Bellows.  
John Whetcomb.  
Samuel Willard.  
Jonathan Sawyer.  
Josiah Willard.  
John Moore.  
John Beaman, Jun<sup>r</sup>.  
Gamaliel Beaman.  
Ebenezer Wilder.  
Jonas Houghton, Sen<sup>r</sup>.  
John Goss.  
Jacob Houghton.  
Joseph Wheelock.  
John Warner, Sen<sup>r</sup>.  
John Warner, Jun<sup>r</sup>.  
Henry Houghton.  
William Blodgett.  
Joseph Brabrook.  
Josiah Sawtell.  
Josiah Whetcomb, Jun<sup>r</sup>.  
John Kendall.  
Benjamin Harris.  
Joseph Willard.  
Elias Sawyer.  
John Wilder, Sen<sup>r</sup>.  
Thomas Sawyer.  
Nathaniel Sawyer.  
Joseph Wilder.  
Thomas Tooker.

Jabez Fairbank.  
John White.  
Samuel Warner.  
Hooker Wood, Jun<sup>r</sup>.  
Daniel Priest.  
Jonathan Houghton.  
Hezekiah Willard.  
John Beaman, Sen<sup>r</sup>.  
Robert Houghton, Jun<sup>r</sup>.  
George Glazier.  
John Prescott.  
Thomas Wilder, Jun<sup>r</sup>.  
John Keyes.  
John Johnson.  
Ebenezer Prescott.  
William Divoll.  
Simon Aeevens.  
Hezekiah Whetcomb.  
Caleb Sawyer.  
Samuel Gibbs.  
Samuel Bennett.  
John Wilder, Jun<sup>r</sup>.  
John Bowers.  
Robert Houghton, Jun<sup>r</sup>.  
Josiah Wheeler.  
Oliver Wilder.  
John Priest.  
Joseph Sawyer.  
Jonathan Whetcomb.  
Richard Wilder.  
Edward Phelps.  
Jeremiah Willson, Jun<sup>r</sup>.  
John Houghton, Jun<sup>r</sup>."



The first persons who were actual settlers of the town of which we have any account were Gershom Houghton and James Boutell, who erected houses here in the year 1725 — the first on what is now the Charles C. Boyden place on Pleasant Street, in the southerly part, and the second on the Calvin Morse place, on Cole Street, in the south-westerly part of the town. In 1732, Jonathan White settled on the farm now owned by Jackson King on Main Street, in the northerly part of town. In 1733, Thomas Wilder and Nathaniel Carter, and soon after Benjamin Whetcomb, Jonathan Wilson, Jonathan Carter, William Divoll, Gardner Wilder, Ebenezer Polley, Oliver Carter, Josiah Carter, Thomas Houghton, Thomas Davenport, and others, came in and settled in various parts of the town; so that while at the end of nineteen years after the confirmation by the General Court of the new grant to the town of Lancaster, or in 1732, only two houses had been built, and so far as is now known, there were not more than five families settled on the territory comprising the present town of Lcominster. In 1733, five years later, so rapid had been the increase, that a movement was begun by those living in this section to secure a division of the old town of Lancaster, and the incorporation of the new town of Lcominster. These first settlers were generally hardy, intelligent and industrious farmers, well fitted by birth and education for the work they were undertaking, of subduing the forests and building up a thrifty and prosperous community, where they and their descendants might enjoy the blessing of peace, plenty, education and religion. This was afterwards shown by the results of their efforts. It is said by the Hon. David Wilder in his history of the town, published in 1852, that "few, if any, of the original proprietors removed on to the new grant, but their sons were among the first settlers." This is no doubt true, as it was more than twenty-five years after the confirmation, and nearly twenty after the first organization of the body of proprietors, before there was any considerable number of settlers on the land; and it is not to be supposed that the staid farmers who were mostly the leading men of Lancaster at the time, after twenty years would be likely to break up their well-settled homes, — in so rich and beautiful a town as Lancaster was at that time, — and move into this comparative wilderness and begin the work over, of building new homes, in old age. But that their sons should take up this inheritance of the fathers for that purpose is altogether likely; and the fact that only two surnames appear in Wilder's history among the early settlers other than the forty-one different surnames attached to the proprietors' agreement, and only a few surnames of men belonging here other than those of original proprietors appear anywhere in the town records for twenty-five years after its incorporation, shows pretty conclusively that these first settlers, not the original proprietors, were generally their sons and relatives, coming here from Lancaster.

These early settlers seem to have been solid, substantial and energetic, rather than brilliant and striking men, and these qualities characterizing the first settlers, appear to have come down to a large extent through all the generations

to the present time. Hence no very distinguished persons in any department of life have been born here, though the town has always had strong and effective native sons, at home and abroad, and some that have attained considerable distinction. They have been solid rather than brilliant men, good, successful workers, but not being, or aspiring to be, geniuses.

The pioneers in the settlement of this town, and their immediate descendants, were singularly exempt from those peculiar hardships and trying adventures to which the early settlers of the parent town of Lancaster, and of many other towns in the State, were subjected in their early history. The circumstances under which the settlers began here were favorable to such a result. They were at first a part of the town of Lancaster, which was one of the oldest towns in the State, and one which had suffered bitter experiences, and fought its way to supremacy over all contending forces, and had become wise in the management of affairs. These men who had done this in the old town were largely the fathers and near relatives of the pioneers here, and were ready to stand by and counsel and assist them in any emergency; and the first settlers themselves were, many of them, men of standing and experience in the old town, and knew how to manage the new one so as to secure peace and good order rather than strife and contention, and how to thrive and succeed under adverse circumstances. So that the town has no striking features of hardship, suffering, or disaster in its early history. It is true that the life of the pioneers here, was, like that of all new settlers, one of toil, and in many instances of scantiness, if not of poverty, as compared with the present. Yet a study of their records, and the little history, in detail, preserved of them, show that they were men fitted for their lot, healthy and robust, cheerful and hearty, with their noble wives, and large growing families around them, — all at home on the farm, harmoniously working together, in unity of object and spirit, on the land which was the common heritage of the family, secured to it by honest toil and sacrifice, and with many of them the only place they had ever known or loved as a home, forming with these families independent communities, a sort of little states, ruled over by the pioneer fathers, sometimes, it is true, in great strictness, yet always in love; being in their simple ways exempt from much of the wear and strain of the present, and having many comforts and pleasures even, which it is hard to secure now.




The earliest known land grant connected with the history of the town of Leominster is the one made by George Tahanto of the Indian title to the Lancaster "New Grant," before referred to, which has sometimes been called an agreement, but which was evidently intended to be a deed, and designed to convey that restricted title which the legislature and the courts of this Commonwealth at an early day recognized as belonging to the Indian tribes within her borders to the land therein described. This deed is as follows: —



*"The Bargain of George Tahanto and other Indians, for land of them purchased, &c.*

*"Know all men by these presents, That I, George Tahanto, Indian Sagamore, for*



and in consideration of what money, namely, twelve pounds, was formerly paid to Sholan, my Uncle, sometime Sagamore of Nashuah, for the purchase of said township, and also forty-six shillings formerly paid by Insigne John Moore and John Houghton of said Nashuah to James Wiser, alias Quenepenett, now deceased, but especially for and in consideration of eighteen pounds paid part, and the rest secured to be paid, by John Houghton and Nathaniel Wilder, their heirs, executors and assigns forever, a certain tract of land on the West side of the Westward line of said Nashuah township, adjoining to said line, and butts southerly for the most part on the Nashuah river, bearing westerly towards Wachusett Hills, and runs northerly as far as Nashuah township, and which land and meadows, be it more or less, to be to the said Insigne John Moore, John Houghton, and Nathaniel Wilder, their heirs and assigns, to have and to hold forever. And I, the said George Tahanto, do hereby promise and engage to procure an order from the honored General Court, for their allowance and confirmation of the sale of said lands as above said, and also that I will show and mark out the bounds of said lands in convenient time, not exceeding four months; and also make such deeds and conveyances as may be necessary for the confirmation of the premises, and also I the said George Tahanto do by these presents fully ratifie & confirm all and every the said premises of Nashuah, alias Lancaster to the Inhabitants and Proprietors thereof; according as it was formerly granted to them or their ancestors, by my Uncle Sholan: and laid out to them by Ensigne Thomas Noyes and confirmed by the Honored General Court, for the performance of all as above said, I the said George Tahanto have set to my hand and seal, this twenty-sixth day of June. In the thirteenth year of the Reigne of our Sovereign Lord William the Third over England &c King. Annoq<sup>e</sup> Domini one thousand seven hundred and one.

In presence of  
JOHN WONSQUON  
his  mark  
JOHN AQUITTICUS  
his  mark  
PETER PUCKATAUGH  
his  mark  
JONATHAN WILDER  
JOHN GUILD

GEORGE TAHANTO  
his  mark  
MARY AUNSOCAMUG  
her  mark

This conveyance was afterwards confirmed, as before stated; and is the foundation of all the land titles within the territory first granted by it, which titles thereunder have never been questioned. No other early land grants of special interest are known of any part of the town.

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## CHAPTER II.

INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN — FIRST BUSINESS — CHURCH HISTORY — BUILDING OF A MEETING-HOUSE — EARLY PASTORS — LATER RELIGIOUS ENTERPRISES — EDUCATIONAL MATTERS — ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS — AMPLE PROVISION FOR PUPILS.

THE town was incorporated by an Act of the Legislature, June 23, O. S., July 4, N. S., 1740, being the 151st town incorporated in the State as it then existed, including what is now the State of Maine, set off in 1820.

The first town meeting was "notified and warned" by Joseph Wheelock, "one of the Principal Inhabitants," by authority of an order from the General Court, passed June 25, 1740, whose return of the same is dated July 7, 1740, wherein he says: "I have notified and warned all the Inhabitants within said Township to assemble and convene at the House of Mr. Jonathan White, Innholder in said Town, on Wednesday ye ninth day of July instant, at eight of the clock in the forenoon, then and there to choose officers for said Town as within mentioned." The record of the meeting says that, "At a meeting legally warned the Inhabitation of the town of Leominster being meet at the House of Jonathan White, Innholder, within said Town on Wednesday the ninth day of July Annoque Domini 1740 and choose Mr. Joseph Wheelock, Moderator for the government of said meeting"—and that they "choose and swore Thomas Houghton, Town Clerk;" Thomas Houghton, Ebenezer Polley, Jonathan Wilson, Nathaniel Carter and Thomas Wilder, assessors and selectmen; Gershom Houghton, town treasurer; William Divol, constable; Gardner Wilder and Jonathan Carter, fence viewers; Jonathan White, sealer of weights and measures; Benjamin Whitcomb, collector and sealer of leather; Joseph Wheelock and Nathaniel Carter, surveyors of highways; Benjamin Whitcomb and Gardner Wilder, hog reeves; Thomas Davenport, surveyor of clapboards and shingles; and Ebenezer Polley and Thomas Houghton, men to take care of the deer, &c. No other business seems to have been transacted at the first meeting.

The second town meeting in the order of date, though not in the order of record in the book, was held at the house of Benjamin Whitcomb, innholder, Sept. 1, 1740. Ebenezer Polley was chosen moderator. At this meeting, —

"*First.* The Town voted to Build a Bridge Cross the river whare the Road is laid out to sd. river.

"*Second.* The Town voted to raise forty pounds for the Building of Said Bridge: which forty pounds is to be Wrought out as Highway Work by the Survaiors of said town allowing each man four shillings  $\text{p}$  day and two shillings  $\text{p}$  day for a yoake of oxen and one shilling for a cart a day."

This was all the business transacted at this meeting, and doubtless refers to a bridge across the Nashua River at the North Village, where the present stone bridge is on Main Street, which was afterwards referred to in the records as the "great bridge."

The third meeting was held at the house of Benjamin Whitcomb, "Innholder within said Town, on Monday ye fifteenth day of December Annoque Domini 1740." Thomas Davenport was chosen Moderator. At this meeting: —

"*First.* Voted, that thay would build a Meeting House in the year forty one.

"*Second.* The Town voted to build ye Meeting House fifty feet in length and forty feet in Bredth and Twenty three feet in Height.

"*Third.* The Town voted to choose a committee of three men namely Jonathan White, Joseph Wheelock, Nathaniel Carter, to see that the work be done.



"*Fourth.* The Town voted that the committee should have a Carpenter to hew and Frame said House allowing all the Inhabitation a liberty to work his proportion if he come to work when he is notified by said committee and shall be allowed six shillings a day and three shillings a day for a *yoake* of oxen and *they* are to begin work the last of March next.

"*Fifth.* The Town voted to raise two hundred pounds money to defray the charges of building said house as far as it will do."

"The town voted that the meeting-house should be built on the north side of the hollow at the east side of Ebenezer Houghton's field, it being the land that Ebenezer Wilder offered to give said town, for the accommodation of building a meeting-house on."

"The town voted to raise forty pounds money to provide weights and measures and a town-stock of powder and bullets and flints and a town-book, and to defray other town charges."

These three meetings were all that were held the first season after the town was incorporated; and the business transacted in them, simple as it was, constituted the civil organization with which it started off; namely, a set of town officers, provision for a bridge over the only stream that could not be forded at all times, for a meeting-house, for a stock of ammunition and flints, for a record book and for some small incidental expenses.

When Leominster was incorporated, towns being parishes as well as municipalities, the first business after the organization was to build a meeting-house and settle a minister. The first of these duties was done here in 1741, under the vote passed at the third town-meeting, held Dec. 15, 1740, so far as to raise the frame of a meeting-house 45 by 35 feet on the ground and 22 feet high, and board and cover it and lay a loose floor, with probably a few glass windows and some movable seats. This house was first occupied for religious worship in the winter of 1742, but was not completed and painted till 1753. It stood in the north-westerly corner of what is now the old cemetery; and was used by the town as a place of religious worship and for town-meetings till 1775, when it was sold at public auction and removed to Still River, in Harvard, and there used as a meeting-house. The next meeting-house was built by the town in 1774-5, on the land now used as the Centre Common. This house was occupied by the town for the same purposes as the old one till Oct. 12, 1823; when, the present Unitarian meeting-house having been completed by the town at a cost of \$8,000, on land purchased in 1817 of the widow Maria Chase for that purpose, leave was taken of the old house, which was afterwards moved on to the land bought of Mrs. Chase, and made into a town house, and there used for town purposes till 1851, when the present town house was completed, and subsequently into a high school building with a public hall in it, known as Gardner Hall; and in 1870 was consumed by fire.

The first minister of the town was John Rogers, a lineal descendant of the martyr of that name, and a son of Rev. John Rogers of Boxford, Mass., born

Sept. 24, 1712, and a graduate of Harvard University in 1732, and was thirty-one years old when ordained in 1743. He is said to have been a man of learning and ability, and was understood when settled to be strictly orthodox in his religious views, according to the sentiments of his time and locality; but it was found after ten or twelve years that he was more liberal than a majority of his parish, and a movement was made by those who were dissatisfied to have him dismissed, which resulted, after a long contest — in which there was more or less ill-feeling in the town and church meetings, where he seems to have been in the minority; before councils, where he did not succeed; and before the courts, where the matter was finally arranged — in the connection being severed in 1762 by mutual agreement, Mr. Rogers being paid what was found due him. A second precinct being incorporated in town, Mr. Rogers became and continued its minister nearly twenty-five years, till about the time of his death, Oct. 6, 1789. In 1788 the town was again united in one parish and church by act of the General Court. Mr. Rogers, having been dismissed by a vote of both the town and church, Jan. 28, 1758, soon after ceased to preach, except to his followers in their own houses and in school-houses; but the town did not hasten to settle any one in his place till its difficulties were settled with Mr. Rogers. Dec. 22, 1762, however, after hearing a number of candidates, and having united in calling Mr. Francis Gardner, a son of Rev. John Gardner of Stow, Mass., born Feb. 29, 1736, and a graduate of Harvard University in 1755, the town and church joined in his ordination as their second minister. Mr. Gardner proving to be a man of good sense and reasonable liberality in sentiment, as well as a fine scholar and an excellent business man, was generally satisfactory to all classes, and continued to preach to a united congregation almost fifty-two years, till his death, which occurred suddenly at Watertown, on his way to Boston, June 2, 1814. His remains lie buried in the old cemetery.

The church in February, and the town at the annual town-meeting in March, 1815, made choice of Rev. William Bascom, formerly the minister at Fitchburg; and May 10, of the same year he was installed as the third minister of the town and church. Mr. Bascom was no doubt less broad and catholic in his views and feelings than his predecessors, and being so unfortunate as to follow so long and pleasant a pastorate as that of Mr. Gardner's, — as is often the case in parishes so situated, — was unable to satisfy, and was dismissed, at his own request, after about five years' service, March 2, 1820. He was a graduate of Harvard in 1802, and is said to have been an excellent man in all private relations.

Mr. Abel Conant, the fourth and last minister of the town, born in Milford, N. H., July 17, 1793, and graduated at Dartmouth College in 1815, and for some time preceptor of Groton Academy, was ordained Jan. 24, 1821; and after a pleasant and successful ministry of more than fifteen years, — during which the parish, May 4, 1835, was severed from the town and formed into



the First Congregational Society of Leominster, the new society being still the first parish and succeeding to all the property and rights held by the town in its parochial capacity, — died of scrofula, Dec. 6, 1836.

Thus, for nearly a hundred years, the town in its corporate capacity maintained a minister of the gospel and the ordinary services of a church and society of the Christian religion without much division. The preaching was generally broad and unsectarian in its character, and intellectually of a high order; and the ministers employed were noble and true men, leaving a deep unsectarian, though somewhat conservative religious impression upon the people generally, which manifests itself to this day.

The old church, under its new organization, continued to flourish, was one of the largest country societies in the denomination, and had some very able ministers settled over it; but within the last few years, though still a strong society, it has suffered from the loss of many of its best supporters by death. Its present minister is Rev. William H. Savage.

The Orthodox Congregational Society of Leominster was organized under the name of the Evangelical Society, Dec. 25, 1822, consisting at the start of only ten members. Its first meeting-house was erected in 1824, and is now the Catholic Church on Main Street, having been occupied by its builders until sold to the Methodist Society in 1838. Its second place of worship was erected on its present lot, on Park Street, in 1836, and dedicated Feb. 8, 1837. This house was struck by lightning in 1850, and came near being destroyed. In March, 1871, it caught fire from an over-heated furnace, and was entirely consumed. The society had, previously to the fire, arranged to build its present splendid brick church during the then coming season, which was completed so as to be dedicated in Aug. 19, 1873, costing about \$63,000 besides the lot. It seats about eight hundred and fifty persons, and is one of the finest country churches in the State. Soon after the new church was built a portion of the members formed a new society at the North Village, under the name of the Congregational Society of Christ, which division, with the large debt incurred in the new church building, drew pretty hard and almost discouraged some; but, by great effort, the debt has been largely provided for, and the prospects of the society made promising. This society is now without a minister.

The Methodist Episcopal Society was formed March 27, 1823, and the church legally organized March 10, 1828. Its first meeting-house, standing at what is now the corner of Prospect and Harvard streets, and at present used for a dwelling-house, was dedicated in December, 1829, and was used till January, 1839, when the society removed to the house purchased by it of the Evangelical Society, on Main Street. The society enlarged the last-named house in 1839, erected a steeple on it, and afterwards occupied the house till it was sold to the Catholic bishop in 1871; the society then removed to its present beautiful brick church, on Main Street, in 1872, which it had previously

erected at a cost of some \$65,000, and which has a seating capacity of eight hundred and fifty. The ministers of this society being of the itinerant order, and remaining but short periods, have consequently been numerous. The debt of the society at the beginning of the recent hard times was quite large, and some of its best supporters suffered severely from the pressure, so that, for a time, its prospects seemed somewhat dark; but by courage, devotion and good management, it seems in a fair way to overcome its difficulties, and be a power for good in the future as in the past. Its present minister is Rev. E. A. Smith.

The Central Baptist Church of Leominster was duly organized March 10, 1850, by the former members, principally, of the Baptist Church established April 30, 1824, and dissolved Oct 27, 1849. It was really but a re-organization of the Baptist sentiment in town, which began with the conversion of Capt. David Allen and his wife in 1818, and which, for a time, was connected with the Baptist Church in Holden, and afterwards helped to form a Baptist church in Princeton, with which it remained, either as a branch or otherwise, for many years. The first place of worship of this society was the old John Richardson tailor-shop, on Main Street. Its first meeting-house, built by Capt. David Allen, between Oct. 23, 1830, and July 2, 1832, — the building contract bearing the former and the receipt the latter date, — for \$834.35, on land now occupied for a residence by S. A. Meads, which was a gift to the society by Calvin Joslin, was occupied by it until its dissolution in 1849, and was afterwards owned and used by the Catholics until they purchased their present house of worship on Main Street. At present it is occupied by said Meads as a barn and carpenter's shop. In 1849 the new society purchased its church-site, on West Street, of the First Congregational Society, and erected its present symmetrical and tasty church-edifice, with a seating capacity of four hundred persons. This society, although it has had many discouragements and made frequent changes of pastors, is now in a flourishing condition under their present popular minister, the Rev. O. D. Kimball, settled Sept. 1, 1876.

The first movement for the formation of a Catholic congregation in Leominster was made in 1849, when Rev. M. W. Gibson, pastor at Worcester, came here and said mass in one of the Catholic families. He subsequently continued his visits monthly; and, as the numbers increased, applied to the selectmen for the use of the town hall, which was generously granted, and services were held there twice a month. In 1851 the small meeting-house owned by the Baptist Society, on Main Street, near the North Village, was purchased and fitted up, and when Fitchburg was assigned a resident pastor, Leominster formed part of that parish, and was attended by the priests thereof; viz., Fathers Turpin and Foley. In 1871 their present church and parsonage were bought of the Methodist Society, and refitted to suit their purposes; and, to accommodate their increasing numbers, remodeled and very much enlarged in 1876, so as to give a seating capacity of eight hundred, making a fine church. Leominster was made an independent parish in 1872, and the present



efficient pastor, Rev. Daniel Sheil, appointed; the church was dedicated to Almighty God, under the patronage of St. Leo, and is now a large and flourishing parish.

The Congregational Society of Christ, at the North Village, was organized in 1872, and has worshipped in Kendall Hall so far, but has a very tasty new meeting-house nearly completed, on an eligible site on Main Street, in the village. The society takes in a large share of all the church-goers in the northerly part of the town, and under its present minister, Rev. E. G. Smith, appears to be flourishing, and promises to be a strong society.

From the incorporation of the town in 1740 to the present time the inhabitants of Leominster have ever taken a deep and active interest in the welfare of their public schools. The schools have always been sustained by generous appropriations of money; and the adoption of a wise and efficient management by the early settlers has contributed largely to the acknowledged success of the schools. Leominster is one of the few towns of the Commonwealth that was never divided into legal "school districts." The laws authorizing towns to divide their respective territories into school districts were never adopted by the inhabitants of Leominster.

Not only did the town repeatedly refuse to divide its territory into school districts, thus avoiding the evils of district corporations, but also, in several instances, anticipated the action of the General Court in requiring and making provision for a more systematic supervision of the public schools. For more than half a century — from 1747 to 1803 — the schools were examined once a year, at the close of the winter term, by the clergyman and the selectmen. During that period the school-books were few — the Bible, Psalter and Dilworth's spelling-book being the principal ones; but soon afterwards the books used in the schools became too numerous, since almost every teacher would introduce new ones. The result was, that scarcely any two schools in town had the same books. To remedy this evil, and to provide for a better inspection of the schools, the town early in 1803 chose a school-committee, whose duty it should be to visit the winter schools at the beginning as well as the close of the term, to take the books into their own hands, to select the lessons, and make a thorough examination of the several classes. The school-committee were also authorized to prescribe what books should be used in the several schools; hence they became uniform throughout the town. About the same time registers, somewhat similar to those now required by law, were introduced. Thus the town anticipated, by nearly a quarter of a century, the action of the State, in making provision for a better supervision of the public schools; for it was not till 1826 that the law was enacted, making it obligatory on towns to choose a committee to superintend the schools. Such was the system established by the fathers for the management of their schools; and in the same just, equal, and republican spirit, have the school affairs of the town been administered to the present time, with such modifications as have been

made necessary by the increasing population in the Centre and at the North Village during the last quarter of a century.

For a period of fifty-seven years, from 1791 to 1848, the money raised for the support of schools was divided equally, or nearly so, among the schools in different parts of the town. Sometimes this equal division was made of all but \$75 or \$100, and the balance was distributed at the discretion of the selectmen, or of a committee chosen for that purpose, or of the school-committee; and this equal division was just and equitable, for all the schools were what are now called "mixed schools," and the circumstances of all were very similar. But in 1850 the number of families in town had increased to five hundred or more, and in order to meet the requisitions of the law it became necessary to establish a High School. Since that time the number of scholars in the Centre and North Village has increased so rapidly that at the present time, besides the High School with its two departments, three teachers and more than a hundred pupils, it requires the maintenance of three grammar and eight intermediate or primary schools to accommodate them all, where formerly there were but two mixed schools. This concentration of the population and school-children in the Centre Village made it practicable to make a proper and desirable classification of the scholars.

This grading of the schools constituted the first important innovation upon the old-time custom of supporting separate mixed schools in different parts of the town. In all schools where it is practicable, a proper classification of the scholars has now, for such a length of time, been proved to be so manifestly beneficial in its results, that it requires no argument to be offered in its favor. Of course, the establishment of the high and graded schools, in the Centre and North Village, rendered imperative some modification of the former method of distributing the school money. Still the same principle is acted upon in giving, so far as practicable, an equal amount of money to all the common schools, with the intent that all shall enjoy equal school privileges.

The most important departure from the ancient method of managing school affairs lies in this, that since 1869 the town has entrusted the care of the school-houses and the selection of the teachers entirely to the school committee, instead of another committee chosen for that purpose.

Another innovation of recent origin consists in designating the several schools by means of numbers, which is equally as definite as the former method, and avoids the use of the word "districts" as inapplicable to towns not legally so divided, and also the word "wards" as not legitimate in the meaning for which it was used. But this change is not material. The spirit and animus of the ancient system remains; for the town, in its corporate capacity, still builds all the school-houses, takes care of and keeps them in repair, divides the school money as equally as circumstances allow among the several schools, and hires and contracts with all the teachers by a committee chosen for that purpose. And though that committee be the school committee,





THE SALISBURY PLACE, LEOMINSTER, MASS.





they are none the less chosen officers of the town, and their continuance in office depends upon the will of its citizens.

The wisdom and excellence of the school system is abundantly manifested by the prosperity of the schools, and is further illustrated by its capability of expansion to any extent to meet the wants of an increasing population. And the reverent gratitude of the present generation is due the fathers for the inheritance of a school system so nearly perfect in itself, and so eminently adapted to its wants.

In December, 1747, the first money was raised "for schooling," and it was voted "that it should be schooled out, one half on the north side of the river and the other half on the south side of the river." Of course, the schools must have been kept in private houses. The sum raised was about £10, or \$40. In those days, and until the Revolution, £1 sterling was about the same value as \$4 in silver. In 1748, the town, at the March meeting, also voted "to build a school-house and set it at ye meeting-house in said town," but it was not built till the next year, 1749. So here, as elsewhere, the descendants of the Pilgrims planted the school-house hard by the meeting-house. First the church was organized, and then schools were established for the formation of a religious and educated community. The amount of money raised for schools during the first ten years, 1747-1757, varied from £10 to £13 6s. 8d., or from about \$40 to \$56.

During the second decade, 1757-1767, the sum raised for schools gradually increased from £15 to £40, or from \$60 to \$160. Some years this amount was all expended at the school-house; in other years at three places, as the selectmen should think proper.

Thus for the first twenty years after the first money was raised for the support of schools in 1747, there was but one school-house in town, and that was in the Centre near the meeting-house. For some years there was but one school kept, either winter or summer, and this was at the school-house; at other times, particularly in the latter half of the period, there were three schools during the summer taught by women, one in the school-house at the Centre, one in the northern, the third in the southern part of the town in private houses.

In 1767 it was "voted to divide the town into three parts for schooling." It was also "voted that the town should pay the charge of building three new school-houses, one in each part of the town"; and these school-houses afforded all the accommodations for attending school that the children enjoyed for the next twenty-four years, or till 1792, though the population of the town in 1790 had reached the number of 1,197, consisting of about two hundred families.

From 1767 to 1774, the sum raised for schools was about £40, or \$160. During the Revolutionary war the sum raised for the support of schools was small, and one year, 1777, no appropriation was made. From 1780 to 1790, \$333.33 was the amount appropriated for schools. In 1791, it was voted to

divide the town into seven different parts, to be called "wards," and to build seven school-houses to be finished during the next year. From 1791 to 1805, inclusive, the sum raised for schools was gradually increased from \$550 to \$700. In 1806, a new ward was established and a new school-house built, called No. 8.

From 1806 to 1836, a period of thirty years, a sum varying from \$800 to \$900 was appropriated for schools, \$800 being equally divided among the eight wards, and the amount exceeding \$800 being allotted to the different schools at the discretion of the selectmen.

From 1837 to 1848, inclusive, \$1,200 were annually raised for schools. During this period the population in the Centre had increased so much that two or three schools were required to accommodate the children, and another ward, No. 10, was established, comprising a part of wards three and four; and in 1845, a new school-house was erected for the convenience of the increasing number of scholars at the North Village. The money raised during this time was divided as equally as practicable, generally at the recommendation of a committee, consisting of the school committee or some member thereof, and one citizen from each school ward, who was nominated by the inhabitants of the same and approved by the town. And this method of dividing the school money was continued till 1853, since which time it has been distributed according to the recommendation of the school committee in their annual report, or expended, as of late years, at their sole discretion.

In 1849, \$1,500 were raised for schools; in 1850, \$1,900; in 1851 and 1852, \$2,150. On account of the establishment of the High School in 1850, and of the rapid increase of the town in population and wealth during the last twenty-five years, the sum of money for schools has greatly increased. In 1855 the amount was \$2,976.36; in 1860, \$3,323.67; in 1865, \$3,979.96; in 1870, \$6,600; and in 1875, \$8,750. Of this last sum, \$350 were expended for teaching vocal music.

This year, 1879, the town raised for the support of schools the sum of \$9,900, with which a High School is maintained for the benefit of all the inhabitants (having two departments, three teachers and more than one hundred pupils), three grammar, eight intermediate and primary schools in the Central and North Village, classified according to the scholars' attainments, and six mixed schools in the outskirts of the town. None of these, except No. 7, is more than two miles from the Centre, all have comfortable and commodious school-rooms, furnished with blackboards, maps, globes and necessary apparatus, and in all are employed well educated, faithful and experienced teachers: if the children of the present generation fail to acquire a good education, the fault must be theirs and their parents, and not because the town fails in any degree to supply all necessary means and facilities. \*

\* No historic sketch of the school system and school affairs of the town can be complete that does not record the name of Jonas Henry Kendall among the generous benefactors of the town. He died in 1862, a descendant of an ancient and honorable family. By his will, besides



## CHAPTER III.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS — HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES — PUBLIC PARK — CEMETERIES — TRAINING FIELD — WATER-WORKS — TURNPIKE CORPORATIONS — RAILROADS — AGRICULTURE — MANUFACTURES — MILITARY SPIRIT — THE REVOLUTION AND LATER WARS — POLITICAL QUIET — NOTABLE MEN IN PUBLIC LIFE — LOCAL PRESS — BANKS AND ORGANIZATIONS — PUBLIC LIBRARY.

THE first two votes passed by the town after its incorporation as a town, were those heretofore referred to in connection with the second meeting of the town, held Sept. 1, 1740, providing for building a bridge across the Nashua River, in the North Village, which made all the business done at that meeting, were the commencement of a system of public improvements, in the town, hardly second to that of any town in the Commonwealth. This bridge was built immediately after the vote was passed, in a very thorough and substantial manner; the abutments being made of pine logs, many of them from two to three feet in diameter, and firmly locked together. This bridge was located where the present stone bridge on Main Street — one of the finest structures in the county, and costing the town nearly \$25,000 — was built in 1872. In clearing away for the foundation of this new stone bridge, these logs were found after having remained in the earth, under the road-bed, traveled over for more than a hundred and thirty years, as sound, except from one-half to one inch in thickness of sap on the outside, as they were in their native home in the primeval forests of the town. Many superstructures had been worn out by the action of the elements and the large amount of travel on this principal thoroughfare between the two most important sections of the town, and been replaced by others, all resting more or less entirely on the southerly side of the stream, on this simple wooden foundation; and this, too, when to all appearance and as everybody supposed, the southerly abutment was made entirely of stone, the stone having been laid outside of the wood and largely held up thereby. Indeed, so solid was this foundation of wood, and so hard to get out, that when the bridge was built in 1872, it was decided to cut away sufficiently to bed the new stone work on solid earth and leave this old structure in, as a foundation for the road-bed, where for aught we know it may remain for a thousand years or more, before it is all changed to anything but simple wood, so durable was the pine timber of the original forests of the country, when kept moist. The road referred to in this vote was the first laid

minor bequests to individuals and a gift to the town of a fine bell for the Town House, and \$5,000 for a hall and school-room at North Leominster, he bequeathed to the town \$5,000 for a Free Public Library, the income of \$10,000 for the support of the High School, and the income of \$3,000 for the benefit of the school at the North Village. It is particularly for his benefactions to the cause of education that his name should be held in grateful remembrance by all lovers of sound learning and generous culture.

out by the town authorities of Leominster, all its earlier roads having been laid out by Lancaster. The record is as follows :

“Laid out a By way from y<sup>e</sup> land of Cap. John Bennett. it begins at y<sup>e</sup> Mill pond of Mr. Ebenezar Wilder about four Rods above y<sup>e</sup> Dam and Itt Runs strate into y<sup>e</sup> Broad Road Unto The Bridge Made over y<sup>e</sup> Brook a little Distance north of y<sup>e</sup> Log House y<sup>t</sup> is Now John Bennets and said Roaid Iss five rods wide and is Laid out by

THOS. WILDER,  
NATHANIEL CARTER, } Select Men.  
JONATHAN WILLSON,

OCTOBER y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1740.

And accepted by y<sup>e</sup> town in March town Meeting Leominster A.D. 1742-3. And truly Rec<sup>d</sup> p<sup>r</sup> Me.

THOS. DAVENPORT, *Town Clerk.*”

This road now forms the portion of Main Street, in the North Village, from the stone bridge to a point near the engine-house, where the brook crosses the street, but has been greatly reduced in width. The mill-pond referred to is now the Wheelwright paper-mill pond. The “Broad Road,” so called, was laid out five rods wide by the town of Lancaster, in 1734, from Lancaster, running near White’s Pond, over Follansby Hill, through the easterly part of the North Village, and on the westerly side of Chualoom Pond to Lunenburg, and now forms part of Prospect and Main streets. Within the next fifteen or twenty years all the principal roads in town were laid out substantially where they now are, except Mechanic Street from Monoosnock Brook to the Nashua River, laid out in 1800 and 1802 (communication with the easterly part of the town having before that time been by the Divoll Road leading from Lancaster Street near the Johnson Place across the plain by the Hollis J. Divoll Place to the river, now seldom used); the portion of Central between Union Street and Platt’s corner, laid out in 1850, and Pleasant Street, from Park to Franklin Street, laid out in 1816; so that for a hundred years or more thereafter but few entirely new roads were laid out, but some alterations were made, greatly improving portions of these roads, as in the case of Central Street or the road to Sterling, avoiding Bee Hill, made in 1830. Within the last ten years, however, a large number of new streets have been opened and old ones widened and straightened and many of them graded, with wide, paved sidewalks, making them almost metropolitan in their character, and costing the town a very large amount of money. Among these recent improvements in roads is the new stone arch bridge over Monoosnock Brook, on Mechanic Street, built in 1873,—a very fine structure, made of Leominster granite, dimension work, laid full joints in best cement mortar, on a solid ledge foundation, fifty feet wide, with a twenty-four feet arch and a capped granite wall for railings, making a bridge which would seem to defy the ravages of time to destroy it. There are other fine, substantial stone bridges in town, made fifty feet wide to correspond with the width of the streets; but none so large or costly as the two referred to. The town has always maintained good roads and bridges, and to-day stands high in this respect.



It was unfortunate that the town did not originally secure more land for a public park, but had it not been for the necessity of land for a meeting-house it would not, probably, have secured any. The "Centre Common," so called, containing in the whole open space something over an acre of land, was conveyed to the town, in its parochial capacity, by Rufus Houghton, April 7, 1774, to build a meeting-house on for the use of the two precincts then existing in town, and was used for that purpose until the present First Congregational (Unitarian) meeting-house was built by the town in 1823, when the old meeting-house was removed, leaving this land thereafter open as a public park, but not belonging to the town in its municipal capacity. When the First Congregational Society was organized in 1836, it succeeded to all the parochial rights of the town, including the ownership of this land, but in 1841 the society conveyed it by deed to the town for a public common. Up to the time of this conveyance but little, if anything, had been done to improve this land, which was unfenced, barren, with little if any shade, and uncouth-looking. About the time of the conveyance, however, after much opposition, leave was obtained, and some of the citizens set out a tree apiece on this land, sufficient in number, if they had all lived, to have given ample shade to all parts of it, but some of them have died and have never been replaced. Those which lived are the stately elms and maples now standing thereon as a rich legacy to the present generation, and as fitting monuments to the forethought, generosity and public spirit of these fathers of the town. Efforts were made from time to time by individuals to induce the town to allow this land to be fenced by individual effort, free of expense to the town, but it was so convenient for the farmers and others coming into the village to drive over this land at will, that no such permission could be obtained until 1856, when the town not only granted permission, but raised and appropriated sufficient money, and during that summer built the present substantial fence. This at first was obnoxious to some, but soon became entirely satisfactory, and has been a great help to whatever of fertility and greenness exists there. That part of the land where the soldiers' monument now stands, before its erection in 1866, had become, by the filling of the streets around it, quite low and wet, so that the foundation for the monument, which now seems low, the streets having been filled so much since that time, was four and a half feet high above the ground below the base of the monument. This is but a sample of the filling done in many of the streets of the centre village, which were originally low and muddy, but which are now so hard and dry.

About 1741 the town purchased of Ebenezer Houghton a piece of land near to, but not quite adjoining the first meeting-house lot, on the easterly side of Main Street, for a cemetery, being the present "Old Cemetery," so called, where most of the early settlers who died here after the incorporation of the town are buried. But few permanent improvements, beyond making a substantial stone wall around it and the building of a hearse-house on this land, have ever been

made by the town, as such, on this cemetery, but individuals in former times built some handsome granite tombs, according to the fashion of the day, on the front line facing the street, which still remain, but which are wholly unused now, all bodies having been removed therefrom and buried in the earth. But the town has for many years kept it in a neat and tidy condition, and individuals have always done more or less, and recently have done a good deal to make it attractive; which, with the shade of the trees that have been allowed to grow, makes it far from an unattractive place of burial. The "New Cemetery," so called, further north, on the same side of the street, was commenced there in 1840 by the town's purchasing about seven and a half acres of land, and walling in the back side, and the erection of a substantial picket-fence on stone posts, in front and on the sides. The fence lasted, with small repairs, until 1878, when the rails and pickets were renewed, the posts not being subject to decay; and immediately after its purchase the land was laid out into lots, and the town has allowed any citizen of the town, at any time, to take up a lot for burial purposes, by paying two dollars, if not wanted for immediate use; one dollar if to be occupied at once, bringing the lots within the ability of everybody to own one. The regular size of lots is  $16\frac{1}{2}$  by 10 feet, and the whole plan is rectangular. The town has built the avenues and paths, set out the trees and keeps them in order; and individuals have fitted up and taken care of the lots, except mowing once or twice a year, which is done by the town. In 1870 the town took and purchased additional land to the amount of about thirty acres, making the whole area about thirty-eight acres, which, it is thought, will last the town, with what remains of the old ground, about thirty or forty years. The surface, so far as has been used, is quite level, but the remainder is uneven, and affords more opportunity for the display of art and taste. The monumental work is generally excellent, and some of it very fine. Within a few years there has been considerable effort to change the place of burial, but after very thorough examination and long discussion, the town voted not to change, and has seemed to settle down permanently on its present place of interment. March 4, 1754, Oliver Carter gave the town a deed of the land on the easterly side of Main Street, called the "Training Field," containing three and a fourth acres, "for a training field or perpetual common, with this provision, that said town improve said land as a training field." Very few improvements have ever been made on this land in the way of beautifying it till quite recently, when some trees were set out and a substantial fence built around it; but it has been so cut up by the railroad that not much can be done with it.

The Leominster Water Works were built in 1873, and the town commenced supplying water for pay Jan. 1, 1874.

For many years prior to 1870 the people of the town residing in the villages had felt the need of a better supply of pure soft water for domestic purposes, and of more effective means of extinguishing fires; and the subject had been



somewhat discussed by a very few individuals, but no concerted action had been taken, or perhaps much thought of, till that year, when Manson D. Haws, Esq., caused an article to be inserted in the warrant for a town meeting to be held November 8, "to see what action the town will take to obtain water." At this meeting the subject was referred to a committee to examine and report at a future meeting, consisting of M. D. Haws, C. H. Merriam, J. H. Lockey, J. C. Allen, and Cephas Derby. On the 28th of the same month the committee reported, recommending to the town to petition the next legislature for authority to take water from Chualoom Pond, or such other place or places within four miles of the centre, as may be found most desirable, and the report was adopted; and the town voted that the same committee present the petition in behalf of the town, and instructed them to take all proper measures to secure such authority at the expense of the town; \$500 was appropriated to pay the expense. Mr. Lockey declining to act further with the committee, Dr. G. W. Peirce was elected to fill his place, and Augustus Whitman, Esq., was added to the committee. After considerable opposition in the legislature, authority was granted by chapter 249 of the Acts of 1871, but requiring the town, before proceeding to act under it, to accept of it by a two-thirds majority, voting by ballot and using the check-list, at an annual meeting. This was done at the annual meeting held April 1, 1872, 497 voting in the affirmative to 176 in the negative. At the next town meeting held May 6, 1872, a committee was chosen to examine and report a plan of proceedings to secure a supply of pure water, which reported May 20, 1872, and a committee was then chosen to make preliminary surveys and estimates, which last committee having performed that duty, reported Dec. 30, 1872, and the town, on a test-vote of 249 yeas to 5 nays, decided to proceed with the work, and chose a water board, consisting of Emery Tilton and G. W. Peirce for three years, H. M. Lane and George Hall for two years, and C. H. Merriam and Wm. M. Howland for one year, and the board organized by the choice of C. H. Merriam, chairman; H. M. Lane, clerk; and W. M. Howland, treasurer; and the town, at an adjournment of this meeting held Jan. 13, 1873, authorized and instructed the board to proceed with the work, and at a subsequent meeting provided for a loan to pay the expense, which was obtained from the State treasurer, payable, one-third each, in ten, fifteen, and twenty years, at seven per cent. interest. The work was let out to Charles L. Goodhue, Esq., of Springfield, Mass., and completed by him to the satisfaction of the town Dec. 23, 1873, at which time the water was permanently let into the pipes and has not since been drawn out. The pipes, about seventeen and two-thirds miles in length, are cement-lined wrought-iron and vary in size from four to twelve inches; the water is taken from Morse Brook, one and a half miles from the corner of Main and West Streets, with a fall of one hundred and eighty-three feet at the top of the curb-stone around Monument Square, giving a pressure of about seventy-nine pounds to the square inch. The drainage areas is 1,215 acres, and the storage

capacity of all the reservoirs about 150,000,000 gallons, or more water than should be used by the present takers in a year. The cost of the works up to the commencement of the present year, including all extensions, service-pipe paid for by the town, and expenses above the income, with interest on the loan, has been \$170,150.16. The works the last year having paid running expenses, including interest on debt, by allowing a reasonable sum for what the town itself has had, and left a balance over of \$241.09. This would seem to be a good showing, considering that the works were built at a time when everything cost nearly twice what it would now.

The foregoing would seem to embrace all the purely public improvements in town; but turnpikes and railroads come so nearly under that head that their history is proper here. But two turnpikes were ever laid out in town, — the Fifth Massachusetts and the Union Turnpike, — the first leading from Westminster through the centre village on towards Boston, chartered in 1798, and the second chartered in 1803, from the first-named turnpike near Monoosnock Hill over Nichols' Hill, and over most of the other hills on the way, to the Concord Turnpike. The first-named corporation built their road and made it a profitable enterprise for many years, till it was made into a county road; but the Union Turnpike was never completed, and the enterprise, being an opposition to some extent to the Fifth Massachusetts, proved financially disastrous and was abandoned, a part of its way being laid out as a county road and the balance given up altogether.

The Fitchburg Railroad, chartered March 3d, 1842 (Abel Phelps and Alvah Crocker, two of the three corporators named in the charter, being natives of Leominster), runs through the north village with all its immense business, furnishing the most ample railroad facilities to that part of the town.

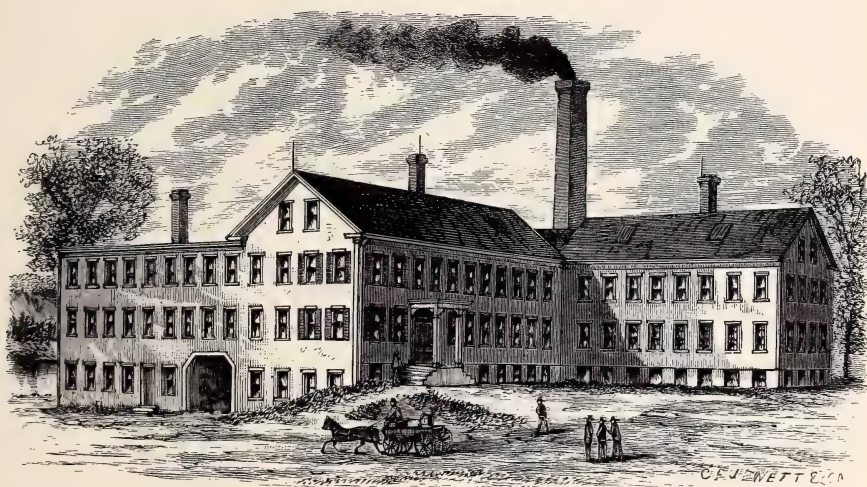
The Fitchburg and Worcester branch of the Old Colony Railroad was chartered in 1847 and opened in 1850, forming now part of a Boston and a Providence and New Bedford line as well, runs through the centre village, furnishing good accommodations there.

The town, for the first fifty years after its settlement, was a purely agricultural community, except where it made enough to supply the wants of its own inhabitants; and it has always been a first class agricultural town, some of its farms being made to produce crops equal to any in the State.

In 1775 horn comb-making was introduced by Obadiah Hills from West Newbury, and soon grew to be among the principal employments of the people; and the manufacture of combs and other horn goods has continued to be carried on and is to-day the most important branch of business in town, employing about six hundred and fifty hands and turning off from \$500,000 to \$600,000 worth of goods annually, which are sold in the cities mostly, at a fair profit, generally for ready money.

The manufacture of children's carriages is another important business carried on here by the F. A. Whitney Carriage Company. They employ, when full,





MANUFACTORY OF JOSLIN AND WILLIAMS, LEOMINSTER, MASS.





one hundred and fifty hands, and sell about \$150,000 worth of goods a year. This is said to be the leading concern in this business in the country, and probably in the world; and their goods are of the very best quality and styles, selling readily in all the markets of this and in some foreign countries, so that during all the years of the recent depression in business this company has found a ready sale for all the goods it could make, at good prices.

The manufacture of piano-cases was commenced here thirty-five or forty years ago, and has been an important and profitable business in town ever since, bringing in a class of superior mechanics who have made excellent citizens, and some of whom have occupied the highest positions in the gift of the people, and are remembered with honor. At the present time there are but two shops where cases are made, — John H. Lockey's and Levi W. Porter's. The former keeps twenty-two hands and does \$30,000 worth of work a year, and the latter fifteen hands and does \$15,000 worth of work; and W. H. Jewett & Co. finish pianos, making a good article, employing thirteen hands and selling some \$45,000 worth of instruments a year. A. G. Reckard finishes what he can do himself with one workman.

The tanning business, on a more or less extended scale, has been carried on here from an early period, there being at some times three or four concerns engaged in it, and at other times, as is the case now, but one concern, — Messrs. Putnam & Phelps, — but this one is doing a business a number of times larger than was ever being done at any one time before, keeping as they do, when full, sixty-five hands, and doing about \$200,000 worth of business a year. These men started business together in 1850 and have not changed their firm during the time, nearly thirty years, a period rarely exceeded in this respect.

Paper was formerly manufactured here by several concerns, but is now confined to one firm, George W. Wheelwright & Co., who employ 38 hands, and make about \$150,000 worth of paper a year; Merriam Hall & Co., and Martin, Bates & Co. manufacture unfinished furniture, the former keeping 60 hands, and doing about \$200,000 worth of business, and the latter, keeping 45 hands, and doing \$60,000 worth of business a year; and G. A. Bishop & Co. finish furniture quite extensively, and are also dealers in furniture. J. A. & N. Harwood manufacture leather board, keeping 60 hands, and doing about \$200,000 worth of business a year. Edward M. Rockwell runs the "Crocker Mill," on woolen goods, employing 60 hands, and making \$100,000 worth of these goods a year. There is a large amount of manufacturing and mechanical business done in town by smaller concerns, the number being too large to mention in detail, and the mercantile business in most of its varieties, sufficient to supply all the wants of the town, with some trade coming in from other towns, is done here.

The town has been noted through all its history for its military spirit, having in 1757 furnished a full company of soldiers to go to the relief of Fort William

and Henry, in the old French and Indian War, during the alarm of that year. This company went as far as Springfield before it was found that it was not needed. Many single individuals also enlisted from time to time before the Revolution. And during this latter struggle there were fully three hundred men from Leominster engaged in the service of the country for various periods of time, from minute-men to regular soldiers for three years. The town came out of this great contest with thirteen men to spare beyond her full quotas under the various calls. So in the days of the Shays' rebellion, the town sent a whole company, with officers, for the relief of the courts at Worcester, which were threatened by the insurgents; and also a part of a company, with two superior officers, to assist in dispersing a camp of the rebels at Petersham, where Col. Timothy Boutelle of this town greatly distinguished himself; and his comrades from here did excellent service, the camp being entirely broken up, and the malcontents dispersed. In the War of 1812, a full company, with officers, was sent from here to South Boston, and remained there till the danger was over; and in the War of the Rebellion the town furnished 404 men, which were more than her full quota under all the calls for men, and came out at the end with a considerable surplus standing to her credit. The men, too, whom the town has furnished, have generally shown themselves to be good soldiers, many of them having become commissioned officers, and served with credit and distinction in important campaigns and battles; and the town has always been prompt in furnishing all requisitions from the government for military supplies, and in her voluntary contributions of those things needed for the relief of the men in the hospitals, and after great battles. So too, in the times of peace the town has not forgotten the men who served her in the times of peril, no call has ever been made for the relief of an honest old soldier or his family which did not find a generous response; nor was the town slow to erect a substantial monument in her public square, to the memory of the dead soldiers who served in the late war; nor have her men been delinquent in proper organization and drill to prepare themselves for any emergency that might arise. In fact, so constant have the citizens of Leominster been in their military duties in time of peace, that her present military company is the oldest but one in the State, having been chartered in 1798, and is as vigorous and promising after more than eighty-one years of constant service as at any former time.

For fifty years after its settlement the town seems to have taken very little interest in politics, if we can judge by the fact that no representative was sent from here to the general court till 1774. Still, at the times when great political questions were being agitated, the records of the town show that the people had some opinions, and were not backward in expressing them publicly. But it being a comparatively new town, the people seem to have been busily engaged in developing its resources and accumulating some property. In after years, however, there has been no lack of interest in this direction, nor has



there been any lack of men here to fill all political offices open to them. Of the citizens of this town three have been members of congress, two of constitutional conventions, and large numbers of the State senate and house of representatives, — one five years — treasurer of the Commonwealth, and one a judge of the Common Pleas Court, and two clerks of courts for the county. The learned professions have had able representatives here during the entire history of the town, from John Rogers in the clerical, Jacob Peabody in the medical, and Asa Johnson and Abijah Bigelow in the legal profession, down to the present time; and some of them have attained distinction beyond the limits of their immediate neighborhood.

Printing was commenced here as early as 1795. The "Rural Repository," by Charles Prentiss, the "Political Focus," by Charles and John Prentiss, and "The Telescope," by Adams & Wilder, were all published here for a time, but all discontinued for want of sufficient permanent support, prior to 1803. Charles Prentiss continued here in the business for a number of years (his brother John having moved to Keene, N. H.), and published several books, and kept a bookstore and bindery. Doct. Adams, who was settled here, published several editions of his "Scholar's Arithmetic" and his "Understanding Reader," two valuable school books, which were afterwards enlarged and improved, and the arithmetic became quite celebrated. For many years prior to 1872 there was no printing done in town, but now there are two offices, with a newspaper having a subscription list of seven hundred and fifty, and a large amount of advertising and job work.

The town has always maintained good, substantial, though not extravagant public buildings for schools, churches, and municipal purposes.

There is a national bank in town, with a capital of \$300,000, Samuel Putnam, president, A. L. Burditt, cashier; and a Savings Bank with 1,709 depositors, and deposits to the amount of about \$550,000; president, Leonard Burrage, treasurer, A. L. Burditt. There are here a Masonic lodge, an Odd Fellows lodge, a lodge of Knights of Honor, a division of the Sons of Temperance, a Woman's Christian Temperance Union, a society of Hibernians, a post of the Grand Army of the Republic, a Reform Club, and many other organizations for charitable, religious and helpful purposes, which are generally flourishing and accomplishing the objects of their existence. The town has a fine public library of 9,000 volumes, which is patronized to the extent of about 32,000 books taken out in a year; and there is a very respectable museum connected with the library, as well as a public reading-room, supported by the town, and open at all times free to everybody. In this most of the daily and weekly papers circulating in this region, and all the best periodicals in the country can be found.

The town has a well-organized and efficient fire department, some companies of which have manifested a degree of skill and rapidity of action seldom if ever anywhere excelled.

# LUNENBURG.

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BY ADIN C. ESTABROOK.

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## CHAPTER I.

ORIGIN OF THE TOWN — CONDITIONS OF FIRST GRANT — PROPRIETORSHIPS —  
INDIAN DISTURBANCES — NATURAL FEATURES — HILLS AND FORESTS — EARLY  
MANUFACTURES — HIGHWAYS — AGRICULTURE — FARMERS' CLUB — CEMETERIES  
— LEGAL BOUNDARIES.

THIS town originated in a grant made by the General Court, Dec. 7, 1719, which provided for the laying out of two new townships, to be wholly west of the line of Groton, and to measure, as nearly as possible, each six miles square. Two hundred and fifty acres were to be given to each actual settler within three years, the allotted number of families in each town being eighty. Each family was to pay £5 for their land, and to build a house and improve three acres of ground within three years. A lot was given for schools, a lot for the minister, and one for Harvard College; and the settlers were to build a meeting-house within four years.

The tracts thus granted were termed the North and South townships; the former became Townsend, the latter included Lunenburg of to-day, with Fitchburg and part of Ashby.

When the committee met to award the lots, they found one family of whites had already the possession of one of the most pleasing locations, in what was termed "Turkey Hills." Samuel Page of Groton had wandered over the country till poverty compelled him and his family of six children to locate; and here he had been for years undisturbed, on the farm now owned by Thomas Wooldredge. He had located here in the spring of 1718. The matter was handsomely arranged by giving him a lot, and one to his son Joseph. His son David soon settled in Fitchburg, and another son, John, in Shirley. Joseph was also appointed surveyor's chainman, and had his lot east of his father's.

In May, 1721, the proprietors met at Concord to choose their lots and pay for them, as directed by the grant.



We here give the names of those who took lots at the first division in the order of the lot, commencing with the "ministerial lot" for No. 1 : —

"Hilkiah Boynton, John Russell, Thos. Taylor, James Gould, Shadrach Whitney, Thos. Perley, Eleazer Flagg, Sam. Burbeen, John Child, Thos. Tarbell, Phineas Parker, Henry Chandler, John Perham, Eben. Chadwick, Thos. Kimball, Jr., Jonathan Woodman, Warren Child, Nathaniel Stowe, Eleazar Green, John Colf, Thos. Hale, Rob. Harris, Jo. Hubbard, Jonathan Whitney, Saml. Hartwell, Jonathan Dow, Zach. Sawtell, Isaac Stone, Joseph Allen, Timothy Harris, Elias Barron, Eph. Sawtelle, Josiah Jones, Jonathan Boyden, James Richardson, Jr., Ed. Hartwell, Nat. Harwood, & one for son, Jeremiah Allen, Joseph Page, Nat. Holden, Josiah Gilson, Wm. Lamsam, Joseph Ball, Aaron Smith, Wm. Wheeler, Wm. Clark, Walter Beer, Dan'l Thurston, Jonathan Hubbard, Sam'l Page, Nat. Wood, Jonathan Poor, Wm. B'lount, Wm. Keene, Nat. Whittemore, Nat. Wood, Jr., Nat. Heywood, Jonathan Shipley, Danl. Davis, Isaac Whitney, John Hastings, Moses Smith, Eleazer Green, James Richardson, James Richardson, Jr., Jeremiah Perley, Eph. Pearce, James Bennett, Phillip Goodridge, Nathan Harris, Benj. Prescott, Jonathan Hartwell, Thos. Wooly, Joseph Kimball, Jr., John Whitney, Nat. Whitney, Jr., Ed. Emerson, Wm. Wood, Jacob Fullum, John Fletcher, and Abraham Woodard."

We find that the school, college and other gratuitous lots were crowded back upon hills not quite so valuable, and were nearly or quite lost sight of. The survey began in 1720 or '21, and the proprietors began to move on to their lots about 1724, and in 1726 there were twenty-six houses up, while ten of them were occupied, though we cannot fully make out who they were, or whether the men were mostly hunters and surveyors, or not. The records tell us that Samuel Johnson had the second family, and kept a tavern where J. S. Willson lives, in 1729. The next was Josiah Jones', where W. S. Jones lives. After these, we are obliged to fall back upon tradition in connection with the slender record, and give the names of the houses as built; but as the settlers came from Lancaster, many of them, we infer that the present Lancaster road contained most of the first houses. The second house was at Hiram Derby's, where Edward Hartwell, the principal business man of the settlement, lived; third, at Joseph Goodrich's; fourth, L. S. Cushing's, where a hotel was kept by one Hutchins and built by Prentiss; fifth, George H. McIntire's, where the first town-meeting was held in 1728; sixth, Cyrus Kilburn's, where Josiah Willard lived; seventh, Nathan Heywood, at O. A. Stratton's, and the present Heywood homestead at the depot (he kept the first store in town, and was a successful surveyor); eighth, on Houghton's Hill; ninth, J. S. Willson; tenth, west of Clark Hill; eleventh, S. D. King; twelfth, John Howard; thirteenth, Stillman Stone; fourteenth, Richard Gilchrist: the last four were built about 1725 to '30. The following lots were taken about 1730, and houses put on them: — A. Parks, the early home of the ancestors of Jesse Sanderson; W. S. Peabody, where the Boyntons first settled; Widow Green, where Daniel Austin lived.

The people had garrison-houses for defence against the Indians. There was one near C. G. Cushing; one at or near Massapog; one at Mr. Derby's; another at the "Castle," where W. S. Jones lives; another at Mr. Gould's, at Goodrichville; and another on Flat Hill, near F. R. Bennet's; while Mulpus had one at or near the "Bridge."

Indians often came to these houses; but the courage of the women would drive them away, especially when powder was used, as it was by Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Goodrich on one occasion, sending them in a hurry to their wigwam.

In 1747, a party came from Canada to punish John Fitch for tearing down a wigwam, and passed over the hills as far as the Stephen Houghton place, but, seeing the settlers going to church armed, they left, and took Fitch and family prisoners to Canada, where they stayed a year. In after years, a son of Fitch lived in town as clerk in a store kept by John Taylor, at the Centre. He was dwarfed from the effects of his captivity, by being bound so long with cords.

The town was named by a party of King George's subjects, who were traveling through the place, and gave it the name of Lunenburg in honor of his German possession. They also sent a bell for the "first Meeting House," but the house had no belfry, so it was sold for freight, and hangs on King's Chapel, Boston.

"In Council, Aug. 2, 1728: Ordered that J. Willard is empowered to assemble the people of the town of 'Lunenburg' to choose officers to stand till the anniversary meeting in March next. Chose James Colburn, H. Boynton, J. Willard, Eph. Pearce and Saml. Page, select men."

There are few towns in this county that contain so many pleasant hills from which to view the surrounding country, even in some instances to the distance of fifty miles; and yet most of these elevations are quite fertile, and have residences upon them, and are well adapted for all purposes pertaining to agriculture. In 1793, Peter Whitney said that the town was nearly divested of forests, and soon would not have enough for home consumption; and yet at this late day we have wood enough and to spare, and with care there will grow all that shall be necessary from year to year for home use. Statistics tell us that there is more land now covered with growing wood than in 1793.

The hills of the town bear their primitive names, and will probably retain them for generations. These are Hunting, Flat, Carter, Turkey or Clark's, Cowdry, Town's, Savage's and Turner's hills. Town's Hill has a nice "city residence" upon it, and has a commanding view. Savage's Hill has another excellent city residence, where the Hon. James Savage spent a large portion of his later summers. This residence overlooks our most beautiful sheet of water, and the hill is nearly, or quite, the highest elevation in town.



But little water flows into town, and the streams are small. At "Mulpus Falls" (so named as early as 1730), is a saw-mill owned by the Perrin Brothers, another owned by L. Phelps, and a saw and grist mill owned by W. & W. F. Dickson. Here is the principal manufacturing part of the town. At the reservoir—formerly called Catacoonamug, with seven and one-half acres—we find Houghton's saw-mill, doing good business. The reservoir now contains hundreds of acres. As early as 1727, "Willard's" Mill was doing grinding at Cyrus Kilburn's, the first on record. Another Willard had a mill soon after on land of Mr. Trask. At Mulpus Brook was one near R. Gilchrist's; farther west, near "No. 4" school-house, one was supposed to have been. In the south-west part, on "Baker's Brook," are the remains of the celebrated "Wetherbee Mill," which did better service than any mill for twenty miles around. To supply it with sufficient water, Mr. Wetherbee built a canal from the Nashua River.

In 1747, Benjamin Bellows, Jr., built a mill at "Mulpus Bridge," where many of our oldest inhabitants remember carrying grain, and the millstones can now be seen in the debris that remains where they were formerly in use.

In describing the practical arts of our ancestors, we might simply say that their manufacturing was rude, yet honorable. Then our mothers made all the clothing of the family rather than pay sixty-seven cents per yard for print dresses. The loom and spinning-wheel were constantly in use, both by mothers and daughters. It might be well if such domestic employments were more in vogue at the present time than we generally find them.

Brick-making was carried on at an early day, and we can find the old yards on nearly every farm. Tanning was also quite extensively pursued, and we may mention the yard of Jacob Caldwell, which has been entirely removed. There was also a valuable tannery at or near George Billings' at an early day. Potash was largely made. At a later period there was a book-bindery establishment in town, conducted by one Cushing at James Putnam's, and printing by William Greenough at J. C. Brown's. In 1837, sixteen thousand volumes were printed and bound. Ninety thousand straw hats were made in that year, valued at \$17,000.

Nothing but "bridle-paths" served the early settlers, and horseback riding was the only way to pass from place to place. To see a gentleman and lady upon one horse might seem rude now, but then it was a rich treat to thus conduct their course to church or on business. Many times the stream had to be forded, as there were no bridges for years, the horse swimming with his burden upon his back. In 1724, the trees were cut away from Lancaster to what is now the Centre. Next the course was over the hills, west to South Fitchburg, and thus communication with David Page's residence on Pearl Street, Fitchburg, was made; commencing at or near John Howard's, passing S. Stone's, thence by J. W. Mossman's and Levi White's. It had no bridges, nor was it graded, but timber and brush were cut away. "Mulpus" Bridge was built in 1745, by a company in the employ of Maj. Willard. In 1736, Benjamin Bellows



and others asked the General Court for four hundred and fifty acres of land, with which to build the present "Northfield" road, sometimes called the "Scott" road. It passes J. S. Willson's from Flat Hill, by W. S. Peabody's, by the Snows' to Pearl Hill school-house, thence on to Ashburnham, and was to continue to Ticonderoga. These petitioners had land in Winchester and Walpole, N. H., which caused them to ask for the road.

About 1830 the road to Fitchburg direct was made, and is one for a good drive. About 1870, Townsend and Leominster roads were built for the benefit of outsiders, at a cost to this town of nearly \$15,000. Thus we have kept on adding road to road, till it is one continued network, and amounting to one hundred miles, which makes a pretty tax for the people to support.

The Fitchburg Railroad was built through the town at the south and west, giving us a depot at the Heywood Homestead. Most people take the cars in adjoining towns.

The land was very fertile when first taken up, and but little effort had to be made to get abundant crops. The meadows on our streams bore all the grass needed for pasturage and hay; so that nothing required cultivation save what was needed for the food of the family, and with a bog hoe and wooden plow, the work was as easily done as at the present day with the swivel-plow or the mowing-machine.

The Bellows family came into town about 1725, and took a large tract of land at the Centre, mostly on what is now the east side of the Lancaster road, and north of Clark's Hill, while one Taylor had the opposite side. William Clark owned a large lot, including the hill bearing his name. Benjamin Bellows, Jr., was a very active man, and had large estates at Bellows Falls, Vt., which kept many men in his employ, so that he added much to the farming interest of this town, and with his son Joseph, managed the estates with success. This Mr. Bellows was constantly aiding the settlers by driving back intruders, and became one of the most influential men in these parts.

Grains were grown at an early day, say 1730, while corn was the principal living for a long time, being ground in a mortar by hand, and baked before the fire in a "spider," and thus called a "spider-cake." But as the land has become worn, the farms have grown up to wood, so that whole neighborhoods have become depopulated, one in particular at Mulpus Bridge, and where were a dozen or more houses. Now a farm of fifty acres is enough, and along side of Col. Bellows's eight hundred, would be considered a paradise.

The south and west parts of the town are better adapted to farming than the north, yet with much pains the farms will yield well in all parts. People are now reclaiming the low lands, believing that these will soonest enrich their garnerers.

In 1848, a Farmers' Club was formed, it being the only one of the kind in the State, which proves to be of great value to the interest of agriculturists in calling them together for concert of action. It has created great interest in and about the town, and now has just been given a liberal sum of money by

C. L. Heywood, a native of the town, the interest to be used annually for the benefit of the society.

We give the names of the presidents of the club since its organization : —

“ N. F. Cunningham, D. Putnam, C. Kilburn, T. Billings, T. D. Pratt, E. Jones, E. Graham, C. A. Goodrich, J. A. Cunningham, Asa Whiting, Abel Cook, Martin Johnson, F. M. Marston, L. Pitts, James Hildreth, 2d, John F. Brown, Isaac M. Woolson and Stillman Stone. William H. Jones was secretary and treasurer for fifteen years.”

The first who was interred in the south cemetery was Philip Goodridge, in 1728, aged sixty years. The first buried in the north cemetery was Hannah Dunsmoor, in 1770, daughter of Dr. Dunsmoor.

The present city of Fitchburg was taken from this town in 1764. Torrey's history seems to reflect on the mother town for not more willingly allowing the child to go forth ; yet the mayor of the young city, in 1876, desired the assistance of the mother's purse, and asked her to be re-annexed, and called the “ 7th ward.”

The following are the boundaries as the town was in 1830, from surveys of Cyrus Kilburn, which he has kindly furnished to the writer : —

“ It is the north-east town of Worcester County, and the survey begins at the north-east corner of the town in Shirley line, and at the south-east corner of Townsend ; thence north  $60^{\circ} 18'$  west 1,936 rods by Townsend line to a stone post at Ashby line, the south-west corner of Townsend ; thence south  $5^{\circ} 24'$  west by Ashby line 165 rods to a stone post set beside a large white-pine stump, the true corner ; thence south  $4^{\circ} 5'$  west 484 rods by Fitchburg line to a stone post ; thence south  $2^{\circ} 7'$  east 241 rods by Fitchburg line to a stone post ; thence south  $10^{\circ} 21'$  west 745 rods by Fitchburg line to a stone post ; thence south  $33^{\circ} 10'$  east 198 rods to a large white-oak tree marked by Leominster line ; thence north  $60^{\circ} 51'$  east 401 rods to a stone post on west side of Unkeshewalom by Leominster line ; thence south  $32^{\circ} 21'$  east 616 rods by Leominster line to a stone post ; thence south  $13^{\circ} 57'$  east 401 rods by Leominster line to a stone post ; thence south  $69^{\circ} 37'$  east 149 rods to Lancaster ; thence south  $70^{\circ} 35'$  east 383 rods by Lancaster line to a stone post ; thence north  $15^{\circ} 34'$  east 1,802 rods by Shirley line to first bound ; containing 17,494 acres. In 1848, the Legislature changed the Shirley line so as to agree with ‘ Groton old line,’ and by so doing an angle was formed at the ‘ old corner,’ commencing at the south-east corner of Lunenburg ; thence north  $14^{\circ} 52'$  east about 217 rods to ‘ Groton old corner’ to a stone post by Shirley line ; thence north  $16^{\circ} 31'$  east about 1,585 rods by Shirley line to a stone post to the place of beginning aforesaid.”

Tradition says that the south line was run as it is to “ please somebody ” ; for some settlers of Leominster assisted in the surveys, and all started from Lancaster line and watered their horses in Massapog ; thence to Unkeshewalom and did the same ; then to the Nashua, and on to a point between “ Dorchester and Wooburn Farms ” as the south-west corner of the town. These farms are supposed to mean Westminster and Ashburnham.

## CHAPTER II.

DAYS OF THE REVOLUTION — LISTS OF SOLDIERS — MOVEMENT AGAINST SHAYS — SECOND WAR WITH ENGLAND — THE SOUTHERN REBELLION — A REMARKABLE SERVICE — ROLL OF HONOR — SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION — CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS — ALMSHOUSE — HOTELS — LIBRARY — PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC MEN.

OUR people were quite unanimous in support of our rights to "representation or no taxation," and cheerfully acquiesced in the hardships and privations during the long struggle of the Revolution. George Kimball, who lived where S. Stone now does, was a delegate to the Provincial Congress at Concord, in October, 1774, and it was ordered that one-fourth of the militia should be ready to march at a moment's warning. Fifty-seven men were chosen, with John Fuller, captain (who lived where Mr. Hilbert now does), Jared Smith, ensign, and Thomas Hovey, drummer. The company used to train on the Common; and on the 4th of July, 1776, they planted the buttonwood tree now standing there.

Nearly all who were at Bunker Hill returned; and we give, as near as can be now done, the names of those who went into the army; viz.: —

Jonathan Adams, Benj. Bellows, Jr., Peter Barthrick, colonel, killed at Long Island, Ed. Bridge, Col. Peter Brown (who lived where O. L. Spaulding now does), Gen. John Bellows, Nehemiah Bowers, Jonas Bowers, John Russ, Aaron Russ, Joseph Bicknell, Charles Cushing, Abraham Carlton, Jr. (died 1775), Asa Carlton, Timothy Carlton, Phineas Carlton, Thadeus Carter, James Carter (died), John Dunsmoor (was a surgeon), Phillip Goodridge, Jr., Thos. Harkness, Noah Dodge, Israel Wyma, Richard Fowler, Jonathan Martin, Wm. Martin.

A letter written by Col. Brown while at Bunker Hill is still in existence.

The adoption of the Constitution occurred in 1778, amid this sanguinary strife, and the voters were unanimous in their action. Immediately afterwards nine men were called for the army, and were furnished at an expense of \$100 each, by borrowing the money and taking care of the family. Each person was called to take part in support of the war, and unless he responded, was termed "Tory." Many of the wealthy would unite as a company, so that if one was called to the war, each was ready in his turn to furnish a substitute, and when one could not be obtained they would "draw lots" to see who should go; as it fell to a Mr. Willard in one instance, he sent his slave in his place. When many had done more than was thought right, the town voted to equalize. The men from this town went to Bennington, having learned by "signal," within two hours after the first gun was fired, but reached there too late for action at the second battle. But little can be learned by the records of the cost of the war to the town, as the currency was so changeable, but \$18,000 was assessed, aside from what individuals did.



The people had become so oppressed by taxes after the war that some even in this town sympathized with Shays in his resistance to the sheriff in enforcing the collection of taxes, but the better portion of the people ordered out a company of men to assist the enforcement of the law, and marched as far as West Boylston, and then the matter was settled, and no blood shed from this town.

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But little interest seemed to be manifested on the part of our people in the war of 1812, as what men went seem to have been drafted, viz., Levi Flagg, Jr., James Holden, Libbeus Priest and James Gilchrist. They appear to have done little more than stay in and about Boston. There was considerable feeling both for and against the war, and, as was common in the other towns, the "Riot Acts" were read in public places here to prevent tumults.

But when the civil war burst upon the country our people were deeply interested, and to speak or even lisp one word against the northern army was enough to give one the name of "copperhead." On the memorable 19th of April, 1861, John E. Lyon started for Boston on foot, enlisted into the army, and served continually till the surrender of Lee and the collapse of the Rebellion. On the 22d of April a large flag was flung to the breeze just in front of the town house, and immediately after a large bald eagle was seen to approach from the south, take a large circle over the flag, and with a loud scream pass directly to the north.

In the evening the people met in the town hall, when volunteers were called for. Charles Kilburn, George H. Stahl, Ansell W. Stahl, Russell O. Houghton, with the one who went on the 19th of April, were enrolled for the three months' call of President Lincoln. These, we believe, had \$9 per month extra pay.

The response to the second call was very large, with \$100 bounty and State aid of \$7 per month, as follows, viz. :—

Alfred Billings, Amos Billings, Charles C. Walker, Charles D. Litchfield, William F. Harris, Thomas Loughree, George L. Curtis, Henry L. Burnell, B. Frank Clark, Henry O. Adams (lost an eye), Francis A. Hildreth, Joseph H. Pearson, William L. Boynton, William Hodgeman, Anson Gleason, Isaac Newton, Jr., Roswell G. Adams, Marcus M. Spaulding, Charles Kilburn, Henry P. Kidder, Charles B. Longley, James M. Hildreth, Charles E. Oliver, William B. Stahl, George V. Ball, Samuel Hartwell, Noah T. Winn, John A. Gilchrist, Calvin D. Sanderson, Alonzo Whiting, George Hudson, George A. Lancy, Luther A. Lancy, Gilbert Cook, David Spaulding, James D. Fairbanks, William H. Boynton, George S. Smith, William D. Perrin, Albert W. Haynes, George Haynes, Henry Sanderson, William R. Graves, J. Franklin Boynton, Charles A. Harris, Hiram W. Longley, Joseph L. Proctor, Albert Houghton, David Merrill, John Catin, Richard H. Wyeth, Joseph R. Graves.

The third call was for thirteen men; and each one had \$100 bounty for three years, and \$7 State aid to family. These were :—

Foster E. L. Beale, George H. McIntire, L. O. Bruce, Gardner Vaughn, George H. Merrill, Eli S. Lancy, Lemuel Pitts, Jr., George S. Pitts, Charles H. Neale, Orlando

Holman, Ezekiel G. Bailey, James H. Smith, David N. Kilburn, Charles E. Marshall, William H. Wyeth, James A. Litchfield, Charles D. Page, J. Frank Butler.

The following are included in the fourth call, viz. :—

Henry P. Kilburn, Forestus H. Jewett, George A. Howard, Levi Parker, George E. Brown, Clark Dutton, Eb. L. Blood, Henry H. Whitney, Fred. J. Lawrence, Benjamin F. Marshall, Samuel Wallis, Frank O. Cady, Oliver F. Brown, Ed. E. Carr, Levi W. Goodrich, George W. Conant, Merrill B. Carlton, Andrew J. Green, Jesse A. Sargent, George A. Stahl, Noble Fisk.

The fifth call came upon the people when matters looked rather dubious, and the young men did not feel quite so ready to go, and a draft being ordered, the following responded with a substitute, if not in person, viz. :—

Abijah S. Green, Andrew Cook, John Smith, James Hildreth, 2d, Judge T. Dinsmoor, George A. Cook, Stillman Phelps, Francis J. Lane, Samuel A. White.

At the end of the second year we had lost eighteen men, which were mostly supplied by re-enlistment of returned volunteers. Subsequently the following entered the army, viz. :—

John Snow, E. C. Goodrich, Josiah L. Houghton, C. C. Topliff, E. E. Merriam, John J. Ramsdell, Charles Boynton, Martin Sanderson, George C. Jewett, Albert L. Heywood, William B. Neat, Jesse A. Sargent, Marcus F. Prue.

In addition, we are pleased to say that the following are, or were formerly residents of this town, though not counted as part of its quota :—

James A. Cunningham (since Adjutant-General of the State), Charles H. Cunningham (Major of 27th Wis.), George P. Cotting, Ed. F. Emory, James R. Gilchrist, William A. Hildreth, Rev. William A. Mandell, James Savage, Jr., Clark Simonds, George S. Gilchrist, Warren E. Gilchrist, Stillman Stone (Capt. Vt. V. M.).

The whole number of residents sent to the war was one hundred and two. Thirty were killed, or died of wounds or imprisonment; fourteen were wounded; fifty-eight came home uninjured. The town furnished nine men more than the real quota, and in all sent one hundred and fifty-nine men, at a cost to the town and individuals of fully \$34,000. The town voted to "refund to individuals all money, except to those drafted." In 1866 the town erected two tablets, with the names of the fallen dead suitably engraved thereon, in the present town hall, at a cost of about \$300. It is matter of great regret that the "\$300 commutation" was not refunded to each individual.

The first settlers had but little advantages for schooling; for a long time the schools were kept at private houses in different parts of the town, at the expense of those who had children to educate and means to do it with. Rev. Andrew Gardner taught the first school of which we find any record, in the parsonage where Martin Johnson now lives, in 1732.

In 1733-4 Nathaniel Haywood, Benjamin Goodrich, Hilkiah Boynton and

Josiah Willard taught in as many different families, as the scholars might be more readily convened. Probably in their own houses, as follows: the first at south part of town; the second near Unkeshewhalom; the third at or near Peabody's; the fourth at Cyrus Kilburn's. For this purpose \$133.20 was appropriated, and "to be called lawful schools." The next account we find shows that in 1735 the selectmen were directed to provide, but how much money or schooling was provided we do not learn. In 1737, \$166.50 was appropriated, and in 1738 \$199.80 voted, and school kept by "School Dames" two months in six different places. In 1740 the first school-house was built at what is now the centre of the town, though a great effort was made to have it located further south, say near what is No. 2 school-house, or farther north, at or near No. 7 school-house. It was a log-hut, and stood on the common. This division of sentiment had much to do with the present location of our village, so tradition says. Here was the end of school-house building, as far as we can learn, till after the Revolution, as there was but little money.

In 1777 we find an appropriation of \$10 made for two schools, one kept in William Chadwick's corn-barn, now belonging to C. G. Hutchinson. In 1778 \$26.66 was raised. Although the schools were needed there seemed a more pressing demand for religion, as about twelve times that amount was secured to the minister. After this the people became more prosperous, and we find more attention paid to schooling, so that the schools took their proper place alongside the church, for in 1783 \$500 was appropriated for five different schools, located, as near as we can make out, at centre, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, and at Mr. Sanderson's, near Mulpus Bridge, all in private families, except the centre. In 1792 a Latin teacher was employed, and later nine districts, with houses built by tax on the inhabitants, located very nearly as at the present day. The house at the centre was built in 1835 on land given by one Daniel Stewart. The town supported its schools for many years by district tax, but in 1869 the town took the houses and paid the owners in full. In 1841 an academy was built on land now owned by G. A. Whittemore, with John R. Rollins as the first principal. James J. H. Gregory succeeded him, who in turn was followed by C. A. Goodrich, but did not prove a financial success, and was removed in 1867.

Within a short time about \$3,000 has been appropriated each year for the several schools, while the present year less than \$1,500 is to be divided among the eight schools, each to be kept six months, with an average of about twenty-five scholars to a school. No. 1 house is at the centre; No. 2 on Lancaster Road, near Joseph Pearce; No. 3 north of "Whalom," near A. Hilbert's; No. 4 on Townsend Road, near Upper Mulpus Bridge; No. 5 on Flat Hill; No. 7 on Northfield Road, near J. S. Willson's; No. 8 south of Fitchburg Railroad depot, near "Heywood Homestead"; No. 9 at Mulpus Falls, near Mr. Hildreth's. The schools are now successfully taught by resident females of the town.



Rev. Andrew Gardner was installed the first minister of Turkey Hills, in 1728, and became possessor of what is the present Dunsmor farm, and also an extra lot, to make up "a deficiency," at Martin Johnson's, where he built a house that year. In September of the same year it was voted to pay \$88.88 for a meeting-house, which stood where the Orthodox Church is; it was a very small building (45 feet long and 35 wide), and unfinished, a mere "shell." Those who had pews had to build them according as a committee for that purpose directed. Those who had the room behind the gallery were Jonathan Wood, Samuel Reed, Phineas Osgood, Ezekiel Wyman, David Page, Stephen Boynton (lived at A. C. Estabrook's), John Fitch and Jonathan Abbot. The salary was \$35.55 per year for six years! It was intended that the minister should derive his support from his lands, but how to do it was the question, seeing he was not allowed to sell. Yet others did sell and litigation was the result, and long and bitter wrangles followed, which set neighbor against neighbor, so that many went away disgusted, while strangers came and "squatted" upon their rightful lands, thus getting large estates illegally, (and yet the minister had no right morally to do so, but for trapping a fowl, instead of his neighbor, had to leave the church, while the same church cloaked the lay members.) David Stearns was settled, in 1733, and lived where John Howard does.

In May, 1749, \$1,000 was voted to build a meeting-house on the common,—this common was afterwards (1771) deeded to the town by Mr. Bellows and Dr. Taylor. A sufficient sum was also voted to pay for the "rum" to be used at the raising! It contained thirty-eight pews on the floor and twenty-one in the gallery. Poor people were allowed the vacant places.

In 1762, Samuel Payson succeeded as minister, and, in 1764, Zebdial Adams, and remained till 1802. He lived at John F. Brown's, and the parsonage is still standing as an L to other buildings.

John Hancock presented the church with a Bible in 1772, which is still in good preservation.

After this Messrs. Flint, Damon and Hubbard were pastors in succession; the latter had much difficulty and litigation with his church, which never prospered after the trouble. Previous to 1800, there had been 2,400 members. (Finally this church was taken down and divided among the owners, each taking a portion; and some parts have been preserved to a late day. A new one was erected on the common, north of the present hotel, and since sold for a town hall.) In a few years the Unitarians became the owners of the house. The desk was supplied by Thomas H. Pons till 1847, when William G. Babcock became pastor. In 1855, James Thurston; and, in 1859, Charles B. Josselyn. At last Jacob Caldwell supplied the desk till the house was closed, about 1865. The society still holds its organization.

The Orthodox Society was formed by the aid of Rev. Mr. Bellows, in 1835, with E. B. Harrington, pastor. The church was built in 1844. The preachers

are as follows :—Asaph Boutelle, E. R. Hodgeman, W. A. Mandell, A. Goldsmith, W. H. Dowden and Walter Rice. The congregation never was large, and it may be truly said that not more than one-third of our population are church-going people.

In 1803, the Methodists organized a society by the assistance of Rev. M. Crowell; and worshipped in private families and school-houses, till a house, situated north of the cemetery on Northfield road, was fitted up for a church in 1813.

The present church was built in 1829. In 1842, the Adventists so changed the views of some of the members that the society came near losing its organization. A portion were allowed to leave, while the balance kept the society alive, and have prospered, with slight exceptions, to the present time. They have had about sixty different speakers. One of the strongest supporters of this church, and for a long life, is the venerable Ephraim Jones, now eighty-seven years old.

Universalism was quite strong in 1840, and, with Rev. John Pearce as preacher, caused some stir in church affairs. It had much to do with toning down the old style of preaching; and immediately following that, the Spiritualists took a strong hold on the community, and have set all in a degree to thinking, "if these things be so."

F. S. Francis built the first town hall, in 1839, for \$1,200. This was sold and moved from its old site opposite Mr. Francis, when the town bought the Unitarian Church in 1867. This church was moved north of D. Putnam's store, and fitted into a commodious building for the use of the town, at an expense of \$9,165.32.

The first establishment for the benefit of the poor, was bought of Jonathan Parker, in 1828, for \$3,424. Previously the poor had been kept by the one who would do it cheapest. The town voted, in 1874, to sell that farm, as the house had been burned, and buy the "Spaulding Place," at "Mulpus Falls," at an expense of \$3,000.

During the early wars people were warned out of town that they might not gain a settlement, yet some of such, who remained, proved the most valued citizens in after years.

Rev. Mr. Adams said that, in 1793, the town had become famous for paupers, "owing to the fecundity of the people;" to-day, with the same number of people (1,150), we have less than a dozen, and at an expense of about \$100 each per year.

D. Putnam built a pleasant building for a store, the only one in town, near the old site, a few years since; and R. W. Snow moved the old store north of the town hall, and fitted it into a dwelling.

The Lowe Brothers have a meat-packing establishment near "Baker's Brook," on Fitchburg Railroad, in south-west corner of town, which has an extensive business.

Samuel Johnson opened a hotel where J. S. Wilson lives, in 1729, which was known far and near for half a century, as one of the most excellent for accommodations in New England, and was the head-quarters of the settlers to do town business, he being selectman from 1729 to 1750. In later years James Patterson kept a tavern at J. W. Woolson's, and later Philip Goodridge, Jr., one at Massapog; and in 1792 Benjamin Goodrich's house was made an inn (south of Whalom). Mr. Reddington kept one at Asa Whiting's; Jedediah Estabrook at the Gilchrist House, north of centre, in 1780; while the present "Revere" is the only one in town, it having been in existence nearly or quite a century.

The first pound was at Samuel Page's, and he was keeper. The next one, near the present one, at the junction of the roads; where also stood an oak tree, the famous "whipping-post," where rogues were sure to get their "just deserts."

In the year 1850 the town organized a library by purchasing a few books, and accepting donations of others from the farmers' club and private clubs; they also appointed Mrs. S. D. King, librarian. In 1867, Miss Frances Caldwell left a legacy of \$500 to the town; the interest, or \$30, to be used annually for books. There are at present about two thousand volumes in the library, which is kept in the town hall. For nearly twenty years the library was at the residence of the librarian.

Dr. John Taylor early settled where Mrs. N. F. Cunningham now lives, and remained some fifteen years. Then followed Dr. John Dunsmoor, at L. A. Snow's, and was a surgeon in the army. Dr. Abraham Haskell lived at Mr. Woolson's; also, his son followed him in the profession, and lived at the present hotel. Aaron Bard followed, and his office is still standing. Otis Abercrombie was his successor, and finally S. D. King. Since then there have been quite a number here for a short time, but most people employ physicians from the adjoining towns, and as a result we have no surgeon among us.

Below are given lists of various civil offices, and of parties who have successively occupied them:—

*Town Clerks.*—Isaac Farnsworth, Benj. Goodridge, 20 years, Benj. Bellows, Jr., Wm. Downe, Thos. Sparhawk, Jonathan Lowe, Geo. Kimball, Jedediah Bailey, 19 years, Jacob Welsh, Wm. Cunningham, 10 years, Abraham Haskell, Jr., N. F. Cunningham, 8 years, Josiah Stearns, A. Bard, Wm. Harrington, Edmund Cushing, John R. Rollins, James Putnam, 28 years, F. Brooks.

*Town Treasurers.*—Ed. Hartwell, S. Johnson, James Colburn, Jonathan Hubbard, John Grout, Thos. Prentiss, Josiah Dodge, Wm. Stearns, Abijah Stearns, Joshua Hutchins, Geo. Kimball, John Bailey, A. Stearns, J. Lowe, S. Graham, Jedediah Estabrook, Josiah Stearns, Geo. Kimball, Benj. Reddington, James Stearns, Stephen Stickney, N. F. Cunningham, Jacob Caldwell, Wm. Harrington, Simeon Heywood, Thos. Riley, Edmund Cushing, A. Bard, James Putnam, 30 years, F. Brooks.

*Moderators.*—Josiah Willard, Sam'l Johnson, Benj. Goodridge, Jonathan Hubbard, Isaac Farnsworth, John Grout, Thos. Prentiss, Hilkiah Boynton, John Heywood,



Joshua Hutchins, Asabel Hartwell, Wm. Snow, Jonathan Wood, Wm. Stearns, John Taylor, Jonathan Lowe, Geo. Kimball, John Fuller, Sam'l Billings, Josiah Stearns, Jacob Welsh, Wm. Cunningham, Thos. Kimball, Chas. Cushing, N. F. Cunningham, Ed. Cushing, Wm. Brown, Dan'l Putnam, David Wood, Sam'l Holman, David Wood, Jr., Robert Kimball, C. A. Goodrich, F. M. Marston, G. A. Cunningham, James Hildreth, 2d.

*Representatives.*—There is no record of the members of the General Court till 1754, when John Heywood was elected; Edward Hartwell in 1766; John Taylor in 1772 and '74; Geo. Kimball in 1777-78; Josiah Stearns in 1780 and '96-98; Jacob Welch, 1799; Thos. Kimball in 1800; Ed. Cushing in 1806, '10 '11 and '20; Thomas Brooks in 1812; Daniel Putnam in 1829; N. F. Cunningham in 1834. Wm. Harlow in 1836; Daniel Low, Jr., 1838-40; Sewell Boutwell in 1842-3; Ithra Lewis in 1844; John Lane in 1845; Willard Porter 1850; Isaac Harrington, 2d, in 1851; James Putnam, 1852, Geo. D. Brown, 1854; Solomon Tarbell, Jr., in 1861; Reuben W. Snow, 1865; Elnathan Davis, 1868; Wm. Baker, 1872; Adin C. Estabrook in 1875; James Hildreth, 2d, 1877,—each elected in November. Josiah Stearns was delegate to revise the Constitution in 1820, and senator in 1792 to fill a vacancy; and in 1793 was again chosen by the people.

At the first election of the Commonwealth Sept. 4, 1780, John Hancock had forty-eight votes for governor and only four scattering.

In 1729, jurors were first chosen in town meeting.

We cannot close without acknowledging our obligations to Mrs. N. F. Cunningham for being permitted to copy extensively from an unpublished history of this town, now in her possession, the work of the late George A. Cunningham.

## M E N D O N .

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BY JOHN G. METCALF, M. D.

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## CHAPTER I.

FIRST GRANTS OF LAND — ANCIENT BOUNDARIES — RIVERS — INDIAN TROUBLES  
— FIRST CORN-MILL — EARLY PROCEEDINGS — BELLINGHAM INCORPORATED —  
UXBRIDGE — UPTON.

MENDON is the oldest town in the county except Lancaster, and, before Blackstone (the south parish of Mendon) was incorporated, was the southeastern town in the county.

May 28, 1659, the town of Braintree petitioned the General Court for a new plantation. The Court granted their petition so far as to allow them liberty to seek out a place and "present their desires, with the names of such persons as will engage to carry on such a work, unto the next session of this Court."

Oct. 16, 1660, the Court granted them a plantation of eight miles square, and when a "full number of persons, with an able minister with them, should appear, they would assign them due bounds."

May 22, 1662. The commissioners, Eliazer Lusher, Roger Clap and William Parke, chosen by the General Court to establish rules for the new plantation at Netmocke, certified to the General Court that "a full number of persons" had presented themselves, of whom thirteen were from Braintree and ten from Weymouth. The able minister was Mr. John Rayner, from Weymouth.

Dedham, Dec. 30, 1663. The commissioners gave notice that those who had been accepted must settle, with their families, at the plantation, by the middle of November, 1664, or lose their rights there.

In the meantime Moses Paine and Peter Brackett, of Braintree, had purchased the eight miles square of the Indians for twenty-four pounds sterling.

In 1667 the inhabitants of Quinshepage (Mendon) presented a plat, surveyed by Joshua Fisher of Dedham, and petitioned for an act of incorporation.

May 15, 1667, the plantation of Quinshepage was incorporated by the name of Mendon, and was assigned to the county of Middlesex.

The ancient boundaries of the town were as follows, viz. : Beginning at a point (well known at this day) upon the south bank of Charles River, thence down stream one mile, thence north four miles wanting forty rods, thence west eight miles, thence south eight miles, thence east eight miles, and thence north four miles and forty rods, to the first bound.

These ample bounds, by the successive incorporations of Uxbridge, Northbridge, Upton, Milford, Bellingham and Blackstone, have been so largely curtailed of their fair proportions that the Mendon of to-day contains but 11,375 acres of the 40,960 of the original grant.

At its incorporation the town was covered with a heavy growth of oak, pine, chestnut and cedar, save a few acres in the vicinity of the rivers and brooks, used by the Indians for planting-grounds.

Its principal streams are the Blackstone, Mumford, Mill and Charles rivers, generally flowing in a southerly direction, following the similar trend of the hills.

The hills of note are Magormiscok (its northern portion now known by the name of Silver Hill) and Bear hills, now in Milford; Candlewood, Waterbug and Chestnut hills, in Blackstone; Goat and Wolf hills, in Uxbridge; while Misco, West, Wigwam, Caleb's, Pond and Neck hills are within the present limits of the town.

The grant for Mendon was located on the territory of the Nipmuck Indians, but, having purchased the land by a deed which guaranteed the premises "to be free and clear of all incumbrances from the foundation of the world to the present time," there was little margin for disturbances between the grantors and grantees. History and tradition are both silent as to any trouble with the Indians until 1675, when King Philip's war broke out, Mendon being the first place attacked within the limits of the Massachusetts Colony. The attack, headed by Matoonas, was made July 14, 1675. Contemporary notices of this assault convey but meagre intelligence of its result. Cotton Mather says four or five were then slain. A petition of Matthias Puffer, recently found in the State archives, affirms that his wife and eldest son were among those killed at Mendon. No names of other victims have as yet been ascertained.

Matoonas lived at Quinsigamond, where the Apostle Eliot and Maj. Gookin had installed the sachem as a justice of the peace, and Matoonas as constable, supposing they had converted them to Christianity. The sachem soon grew tired of the war, and, to make his peace with the English, surrendered Matoonas, bound with withes, at Boston. He was summarily tried, and sentenced to be shot, the Indians volunteering as executioners. His head was cut off and stuck on a pole on Boston Common, near that of his son, who was hung the year before for murder.

Upon the alarm reaching Boston, Capt. Henchman was immediately sent for relief, Mendon was declared a frontier town, and the inhabitants forbidden to abandon the settlement. It was, however, abandoned at the approach of winter, and the town was soon after burned by the Indians.



Although the war was soon terminated by the death of King Philip, municipal government was not reorganized in Mendon until 1680. Some of the inhabitants had, however, returned before that time, as the record of births in the Middlesex County records show.

Among the inconveniences and hardships to which the inhabitants of all new and frontier settlements are subject, the chief grievances of the people here were that they were fifteen miles from the nearest corn-mill at Medfield, and that they "were meanly provided with meddo." The erection of a grist-mill on Mill River (hence its name), by Benjamin Albee, relieved them of the one grievance, and, pursuant to their petition, the General Court, by a grant of "more meddo without their line," abated the other.

The commissioners for overseeing the settlement at Netmocke, among others, established the following rule: that one hundred and fifty acres should be granted to an estate of £100; viz., thirty acres for the house lot, ten acres for meadow, five acres for swamp, and one hundred and five acres for the great lot; and according to this proportion for all other estates, be they more or less. This rule was to be observed in all divisions of land, until the settlement should be incorporated as a town, nor do we find that this rule was materially changed afterwards.

In after times, when land was sold or grants were made for services rendered the town, unless the conveyance contained the clause "and entitled to all the rights and privileges which lots of like dimensions have," the grantee or the beneficiary gained no interest in the common lands yet undivided. Such were not regarded as proprietors.

Dec. 12, 1670, Moses Paine and Peter Bracket, being so directed by the General Court, assigned the deed they had received from the Indians to the selectmen of Mendon, for the use of the inhabitants.

The first town meeting was held June 7, 1667, when "the ffremen and the rest of the Inhabitants did choose for theire Selectmen, to order their Prudentiall affairs, Col. Willi Crowne, Goodman Benjamin Albee, fardinando Thayre, Dan: Lovett and John Thompson, seniour, & Col. Crowne for Register."

From this time, except from 1675 to 1680, we have an unbroken record of the transactions of the town to the present day.

In early times, in the transaction of municipal affairs, the people did little else than choose the principal town officers, always charging them, however, "to make such rules as should clear the town from the penalty of the law."

Sept. 16, Daniel Lovett was chosen "Clarke of the Writts." It was his duty to grant "summons and attachments," and to return to the county clerk the births and deaths, many of which, so returned by him, may now be seen in Middlesex County archives, at Cambridge.

This year a bounty of 20s. was offered for every wolf killed within the limits of the town.

Jan. 6, 1669, Col. Crowne was chosen "to be Returned to the General Court to gaine power to take y<sup>e</sup> virdict of y<sup>e</sup> Jury upon y<sup>e</sup> death of John Lovett (killed by an unruly horse), to Marry and to give the present Constable his oath."

About this time it was ordered, "to take into this town but six more families." Upon these eight miles square there are living, to-day, more than twenty thousand people. About this time, "some disquiet" having arisen in regard to municipal affairs, a committee of three was chosen by the General Court to visit Mendon and "regulate their Prudentials."

In 1672 persons absent from town meeting, or leaving before the close, were fined 2s.

In 1673, Col. Crowne having removed from town, Mr. Ralph Wheelock of Medfield (fifteen miles away) was appointed by the General Court to administer oaths, and to marry persons belonging to either town.

Jan. 1, 1674, the town appointed John Thompson, Sr., "for to keepe an Ordinary and publique Hous of Intertainment." About this time the proprietors began to keep records separate from the town, in which the lands set off to the proprietors or sold to others were recorded. By a decision of the Supreme Court, a few years ago, these records were remanded from the last clerk of the proprietors to the custody of the town of Mendon. In the Colony tax to defray the expenses of King Philip's war, when there were but forty-nine towns in the Colony, the tax for "Mendham" was £6 6s. 2d.

In 1682 Josiah Chapin built the first saw-mill, upon Muddy Brook, just north from Post's Lane. Matthias Puffer built the second grist-mill, upon the site of the old one built by Benjamin Albee, which was burned by the Indians. Joseph Stevens, the first blacksmith, being dead, James Bick was to have a ten-acre lot provided he would do "the town's smithery work." But James proved a crooked stick, for he would neither do the "smithery" work, pay for his lot, or quit it. Finding Bick bent on bickering, the constable was ordered to pull down his fences. Upon this he emigrated to Rhode Island.

The usurpation of Andros having terminated in 1689, the town chose Ensign Josiah Chapin a delegate to attend a convention to provide for the government of the Colony.

In 1689 taxes could be paid in money, or in wheat at 5s. 6d., barley or barley malt at 3s. 6d., rye at 3s., and pease at 4s. per bushel.

1692. The tract of land known as the North Purchase was bought of the Indians for £3 sterling. It is now the north part of Milford.

1693, March 1. Capt. Josiah Chapin was chosen clerk of the market, and Benjamin Wheelock, Samuel Hayward and Samuel Tyler were chosen tything-men. This was the first time these offices were filled. The train-band was to give one day's work for cutting wood and carrying it to the minister.

1694. Assessors were chosen for the first time, and the first pound and stocks were built, thus early providing the means for restraining damage feasant, whether committed by man or beast.

1699. Sixteen wolves were killed this year, and "their ears cut off as the law directs." Of the first settlers up to this time, the following persons had died; viz., George Aldrich, John Sprague, John Thompson, Sr., Dea. Simon Peck, Daniel Lovett, Dea. John Warfield, Timothy Winter, Walter Cook and Jacob Aldrich.

1703. This year the names of seventy persons are found on the tax list.

1704. The Indians upon the eastern frontiers of the Colony began to commit depredations, and a general Indian war was deemed imminent. Mendon was again declared a frontier town, and one-half of the militia-men were required by law to provide themselves with "a pair of good, serviceable mogginsons and snow shoes," in anticipation of a winter campaign. The "mogginsons and snow shoes," however, were not called into service, as the Indians failed to put in an appearance. About this time an attempt was made to oust some squatters, from Rhode Island, near Shokolog Pond (now in Uxbridge). In the attempt Joseph and Robert Taft were made prisoners, and carried to Providence; but, as they charged the town but 6s. apiece for the campaign, it is supposed their captivity was of short duration. At this time the road leading north was known as the Marlborough Road, the one leading south as the Rehoboth Road, the one west as the Connecticut Road, and the three leading east as the Sherburne, Medfield and Wrentham roads.

In 1711 a grist-mill was built on Charles River, and was the first one within the limits of the present town of Bellingham.

In 1712 the aggregate of all taxes were £208 14s. 2d.

1714. Town lines between Mendon and Sutton, and between Mendon and Sherburne, were perambulated.

1717. Since the necrological record made in 1699, the following leading citizens had died; viz., Sergt. Abraham Staples (to perpetuate whose memory Rev. Carlton A. Staples, of Providence, R. I., and Hamilton B. Staples, Esq., of Worcester, have recently erected a substantial granite monument), Christopher Winter, Samuel Thompson, Capt. Joseph White, Benjamin Thayer, Ebenezer Read, Dea. Peter Holbrook, Samuel Hayward, Sr., and Ensign William Holbrook.

1719. Seven persons were chosen tything-men; and, by the act of March 3, 1694, they were to be fined 40s. each if they refused to serve. They were to carry a black staff two feet long, with one end tipped with brass.

Nov. 27, 1719. Bellingham was incorporated, enclosing portions of Mendon, Dedham and Wrentham. Named for Gov. Bellingham.

1720. The town tax for this year was £134 3s. 4d.

March 31, 1721. The General Court passed an act for the emission of fifty thousand pounds in bills of credit. These were to be loaned to the towns, should they so elect. Mendon was set down at £313 10s. Notwithstanding a strong protest, the town voted to accept their portion of the bills. The bills soon began to depreciate, and came down to 5s. 6d. in the pound.



Sept. 5, 1726. Mention is made of a great sickness, but the only recorded deaths during its supposed prevalence were those of Ebenezer White, Benjamin Wheaton and Josiah Chapin, Esq.

June 27, 1727. Another portion of territory is taken away and incorporated by the name of Uxbridge, being the west part of the town.

April 2, 1731. The county of Worcester was incorporated, and Mendon, which had belonged first to the county of Middlesex and afterward to the county of Suffolk, since 1671, was absorbed in the new county, though much against her will.

Up to this time, 1732, all the roads remained at their original width — that of ten rods. From this period they began to sell portions of the roads to the abutters, so that, finally, the roads were brought to the width of four rods. For every ram running at large it was voted the owner should pay five shillings, or not have him, and 6*d.* a week for keeping him.

1733. Raised £100 for repair of roads, and that those who did not work out their taxes last year may do so this year, at the bridge by Samuel Thompson's mill, now Millville, in Blackstone.

June 14, 1735. The General Court ("seeing that the outlands of the several towns of Mendon, Uxbridge, Sutton and Hopkinton are completely filled with inhabitants, and by reason of their remoteness from the places of public worship,") incorporated the town of Upton.

May 18, 1737. Voted to raise £40 to let the fish up Patucket River, provided other towns will pay their proportion.

May 22, 1738. Something new under the sun! Benjamin Wheelock was chosen representative to the General Court, and "refused to serve" Ebenezer Merriam was then chosen representative to the General Court, and he didn't refuse to serve. This was nothing new under the sun.

1739. The selectmen were directed to lease the burying-yard for thirty years to some good man, provided he will enclose it with a good stone wall.

1740, May 19. Upon the question of dividing the town, the moderator directed those who were in favor of it to place themselves upon the women's side of the house, and those who were opposed upon the men's side.

1744, March 6. It was voted to erect a monument over the grave of the Rev. Grindal Rawson, late minister of Mendon.

Voted, that the Mill River Precinct have the town's old law-book during the pleasure of the town.

1746. Voted to forego a tax of £2 14*s.* 5*d.* 3*f.*, new tenor, which is, in old tenor, £10 17*s.* 11*d.*, a discount of seventy-five per cent.

1749. Raised £300, old tenor, for town charges.

1751. Voted to build a school-house, for the use of the town, near the meeting-house in the East Precinct. Its cost was £212 11*s.*, old tenor.

1753. Wages to be paid on the highway this year were, for a man, 2*s.*, and for a man and team, 5*s.* a day, old tenor.

1754. This year the long controversy between Mendon and Uxbridge about the boundary line was amicably adjusted, and the present line was confirmed by the General Court.

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## CHAPTER II.

MENDON DURING THE WARS — FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR — THE REVOLUTION — INFLATED CURRENCY — MILFORD INCORPORATED — BLACKSTONE — ACTION DURING THE REBELLION — BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION — FISHERY — EDUCATION — FIRST SCHOOL-HOUSE — SECOND AND THIRD — HIGH SCHOOL.

THE town records make no mention that Mendon furnished any men for the French war; but upon a search among the archives at the State House, it was found that the town raised seventy-four men for the expedition in 1755.

In 1757, twenty-nine men marched from Mendon for the relief of Fort William Henry. In 1759, when the war was virtually closed by the conquest of Quebec, Mendon furnished ninety men; and in 1760, Mendon furnished twenty-one men for the reduction of Montreal.

1764, March 7. The selectmen reported that they had warned forty-three persons out of town, according to law. A colonial census was taken this year, and the whole population of Mendon was one thousand eight hundred and forty-three.

1771. The valuation of Mendon this year was as follows, viz.:—Real estate, £1,160 15s. 2d.; personal, £2,558 5s. 4d.; acres of tillage, seven hundred and eight; and ratable polls, four hundred and three.

As early as 1773, the people of Mendon passed twenty resolves, presented by Joseph Dorr, Esq., as chairman of a committee, condemning, in vigorous and patriotic terms, the encroachments of the British government. In 1774, they resolved they would regard all persons buying goods from England as enemies of their country.

To the call for men, after the battle of Lexington, Mendon responded with one hundred and sixty-four men. Just how many men were furnished by the town for the war, the imperfect state of the muster-rolls at the State House make it impossible to determine. At one time, in 1778, there were seventy-five men in the army. This year the town voted to approve of the Articles of Confederation, and rejected the draft of a State constitution, made by the General Court, by a vote of fifty-seven to two.

June 19, 1780. The town raised £10,000 to defray town charges, and £13,000 to buy beef for the army. At this time the Continental money had depreciated so that £100 in specie would buy £6,400 in paper.

April 11, 1780. After a long struggle, the East, or Mill River Precinct was

incorporated by the name of Milford, and all matters of business between the two towns were amicably adjusted.

The first election under the State Constitution, which had just been ratified by the people, took place Sept. 4, 1780, when John Hancock was chosen governor. Joseph Dorr, Esq., of Mendon, was chosen a senator by the people, and a councillor by the General Court.

1781. This year the total valuation of Mendon was £3,708 18s. 4d. hard money.

1782. At the State election this year, no votes were cast in Mendon, "though repeatedly called for," but for what reason is not known.

1786. Shays' Rebellion occurred this year, but the people of Mendon did not sympathize with the movement. December 4, Capt. William Torrey, with his company, marched to Worcester. When a requisition was made for twelve hundred men, Mendon furnished sixty-three of the number.

1792. A small-pox hospital was allowed, and Dr. Joseph Adams had charge of it.

In the war of 1812, it was voted to allow each soldier in the service seven dollars a month in addition to the pay allowed by law.

1816. Lewis Allen, collector of taxes, absconded, having embezzled a portion of the money he had collected. His bondsmen supplied the deficit.

1818. The fourth highway district were allowed to work out their highway taxes, "agreeable to their own minds." They made no report of their doings!

1819. Raised \$1,200 to defray town charges; \$1,000 for repair of roads, and \$800 for schools.

1820. Hon. Jonathan Russell and Dr. Daniel Thurber were chosen delegates to the convention for revision of the State Constitution.

1821. The town adopted Articles 2, 3, 6, 8 and 14, while the State at large adopted the articles from 1 to 9 inclusive.

1823. A committee of thirteen was chosen to recommend measures for the suppression of intemperance, but no report of their doings is found.

The subject of dividing the town began to be agitated, and it was frequently the subject of discussion at town meetings, the vote being generally against the division.

1825. The subject of a division was brought before the General Court this year upon the petition of Seth Hastings and others.

1826. The petition being lost, as reported by the committee on towns, the matter of dividing the town at this time came to an end. It was supposed that the petition was surreptitiously removed.

1830. Raised \$1,200 for schools; \$1,200 for repair of roads and bridges, and \$3,000 for town charges. The farm of Caleb Mowry was bought for \$3,400 for a poor-farm, and the poor were removed to the same.

1834. Obadiah Wood, a representative from this town, introduced a bill in the General Court greatly reducing the number of representatives, and the same became a law.



1835. The selectmen were instructed to withhold their approbation for licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors.

1837. The town treasurer *first* required to give bonds. The United States being free from debt, and having a surplus of about seventy millions, placed it on deposit with the several States. Massachusetts placed her share on deposit with the several towns. Mendon received \$6,921.64, of which sum Blackstone at its incorporation received \$4,803.45, leaving for Mendon \$2,118.19, which has been kept intact and at interest to this time for the use of the schools.

1840. The enrolled militia were five hundred and five. At the presidential election the Democratic ticket had three hundred and five, the Whig ticket three hundred and one, the others seven. No representative was chosen.

1841. The fourteenth article of the amendments to the constitution having been adopted, Mendon was entitled to but one representative.

1843. Town officers' report printed for the first time.

1844. The division of the town again mooted, and a petition to that effect put in circulation.

1845. The town was divided by the parish line, and the new town incorporated by the name of Blackstone, March 25, 1845. In the North Parish (Mendon) were three hundred and nineteen polls; real estate, \$379,374; personal, \$137,391; and in the South Parish (Blackstone) were six hundred and ninety-six polls; real estate, \$548,299; personal, \$366,025. Of the surplus revenue Mendon had \$2,118.19, and Blackstone, \$4,803.45.

1846. The enrolled militia were two hundred and two.

1847. The two towns voting together until 1850, as by the act incorporating Blackstone they were required to do for representatives to the General Court, Rev. Benjamin D. Peck was chosen representative. He was afterward State treasurer of Maine.

1849. Raised \$500 for roads, \$800 for schools, \$750 for the poor, and \$400 for incidental expenses. A fire-engine was purchased this year, but was sold, without being used, to the town of Milford, at a loss of about \$450.

1850. Harrison Hall was purchased of the proprietors by the town, and to be known hereafter as the town hall

1852. The road (now Elm Street) laid out by the county commissioners. The enrolled militia were two hundred and eighteen.

1853. A fire-proof safe for holding the records was purchased and placed in the town hall.

1854. Work on the highway was paid twelve and one-half cents per hour, and the same for oxen and cart; for a plow, fifty cents per day.

The Kansas-Nebraska bill being before Congress, strong resolutions were passed by the town deprecating the act.

1855. A receiving tomb was erected at the old burying-ground.

1857. The 20th, 21st and 22d articles of amendments to the Constitution were adopted by large majorities.

1857. The farm of Millius A. Taft was bought for a poor-farm, the Mowry farm having been sold at the incorporation of Blackstone in 1845. Nov. 3, the first election under the district system. John G. Metcalf of Mendon was elected senator for the Worcester south-eastern district, and Samuel W. Scott of Uxbridge representative for the 20th Worcester district.

1859. The 23d article of amendment to the Constitution adopted by a vote of 39 to 36.

1860. Raised \$1,000 for the support of schools, \$500 for the poor, \$600 for repair of highways, and \$1,000 for incidental expenses.

1861. At the November meeting, the town voted to hire \$5,000, to help sustain the war against secession; and the selectmen were directed to pay \$1 per week each to the wife and children under sixteen years of age of any inhabitant in the military service of the United States, and also the same sum each to any parent, brother, sister or child dependent upon such person at the time of his entering the army.

The amount of bounties paid by the town was \$16,085, besides \$2,510 paid by individuals. Large sums were also paid as State aid, the same being reimbursed by the State at the close of the year. During the war, Mendon furnished 132 men, being 16 in excess of the number required by the several calls. The number of those who died in the service was 19, and the bodies of but four were brought home for burial.

1864. Fifteen cents per hour was allowed for work on the highway for a man, the same for oxen and cart, and ten cents per hour for a plow.

Raised \$1,200 for schools, \$550 for the poor, \$1,000 for roads, \$1,000 for incidental expenses, and \$1,000 for interest on the war debt.

1865. Raised \$1,200 for schools, \$550 for the poor, \$1,000 for roads, \$1,000 for incidental expenses, \$1,000 for interest, and \$5,000 to reduce the town debt.

1867. May 15. The two hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town was celebrated this day by an address from Rev. Carlton A. Staples of Providence, a native of Mendon, and a poem by Judge Henry Chapin of Worcester, a native of Upton. Twelve hundred persons partook of a substantial repast provided by William Tufts of Boston.

1868. The High School was established.

1870. The fish commissioners leased Mendon Pond for twenty years, to Leonard J. Wilson of Milford and John Bliss of Newton, "for the cultivation of useful fishes," at \$656, payable by instalments.

The lessees have stocked the pond with black bass and land-locked salmon.

The enrolled militia were found to be 144. Voted that no persons be allowed to sell intoxicating liquors.

1871. Voted that, to all taxes not paid by September 10, one per cent. per month shall be added until paid.

The line between Bellingham and Mendon established by the General Court.

The repairs made on the road from the house of Silas Dudley to Milford line, by order of the county commissioners, cost \$6,950, the length of the road being 306 rods.

1872. The poor-farm leased (afterwards sold), and the poor provided for elsewhere.

The school-house in District No. 1 was built, at a cost of \$1,800.

A self-acting fire-engine and portable extinguishers were purchased, at a cost of \$1,300.

The building formerly the Mendon Bank was purchased and fitted up for a hall of records, at a cost of \$625.

1873. It was voted that a bounty of ten cents be paid for each woodchuck killed within the limits of the town.

1874. Raised \$1,700 for schools, \$1,200 for the poor, \$1,500 for roads, \$800 for incidental expenses, \$1,600 for payment of interest, and \$2,000 for payment of principal.

D. C. Howard was paid \$490.79 as damages and costs for injuries received by reason of a defect in the highway leading to Milford.

1877. The law-office of the late Warren Rawson, Esq., was bought and converted into a "Lock-up for Tramps."

The educational growth of the town began Jan. 8, 1703, by voting the erection of the first school-house, and installing Dea. John Warfield, who came from Dedham, as the first schoolmaster.

In 1709, the minister (Rev. Grindal Rawson) offered, if the town would procure a Latin schoolmaster, to give him his board for four years. The town voted to do so, and that his salary should be twenty pounds a year; but, as no further mention is made of a Latin schoolmaster, it is supposed the project fell through.

At an early day, the school and the ministry were regarded as proprietors, and so, when any division of land was agreed on, the school and the ministry had each a lot assigned them.

In after times, these lots were sold, and the proceeds applied to their support.

In 1712, Dea. Warfield having resigned his position, the selectmen "being informed of one Robert Husse (Hews), who had formerly been employed in that service at Eastham, Agreed to endeavour the obtaining him." At the end of two years, Martin Pearce succeeded him, and was to have seventeen pounds a year, "with his bord and Dyett."

In 1718, William Boyce was hired for a schoolmaster for twenty-eight pounds per year. In 1721, William Boyce was still the schoolmaster, and was to keep school in four places; viz., at the school-house by Dea. Warfield's, over Mill River, at the south end of the town, and about the Great River.

1728-30, Grindal Rawson kept school here, and was to have £22 10s. for six months. He was the eleventh child of Rev. Grindal Rawson, and had



graduated from Harvard College in 1728. He was settled in the ministry at South Hadley, where he remained until 1741, whence he removed to East Haddam, Conn., and died there March 27, 1777, aged seventy.

In 1733, it was voted that the school should be kept the three summer months and the three winter months at the school-house, and the other six months where the selectmen should direct, and Samuel Terry was hired "to keep a Grammar School for four months for £20."

1735. This year forty pounds were raised to pay town debts and the schoolmaster; but, as no mention is made of the amount of the town debts, we are left in doubt how large a moiety fell to the share of the schoolmaster. At this time, Samuel Terry was succeeded by John Field, who was hired for three months.

1736. John Field was continued as schoolmaster, and "is to keep six months in the town and six months in the outskirts of the town, and is to have £45 for his services."

Nov. 26, 1737. Capt. William Rawson was hired to keep a grammar school for three months. In 1737, he was hired to keep a grammar school for ten months, at fifty pounds per annum. He was the nephew of Rev. Grindal Rawson, and graduated at Harvard College in 1703.

In 1738, Josiah Marshall, A. M., was hired to keep school six months, "according to the direction of the Province Laws," for thirty pounds old tenor, in bills of credit of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay.

In 1742, Josiah Marshall, A. M., was hired to keep a grammar school for a year for nineteen pounds, lawful money, or bills of credit equivalent thereto.

In 1744, Josiah Marshall, A. M., was again chosen schoolmaster; "but the town refused to build a new school house."

In 1746, Samuel Thayer and six others were chosen a committee "to consider the affair of building a school house or school houses and report at the next town meeting." At this time, there was but one school-house in the town.

1747. Voted *not* to hire Mr. Josiah Marshall as schoolmaster, and, as no further mention is made of schools during the year, it is presumed none were kept.

Although the town had recently voted not to build a school-house, yet, probably in consequence of the report of the committee above mentioned, the vote was reconsidered, and the town now "voted to build a new School house and to set it on ye Training Field, adjoining ye road." It was to be twenty feet long, sixteen feet wide, and seven feet between joints. It was located near where the barn of Albert W. Gaskill now stands, and its cost was to be defrayed out of the money received for the sale of land in reducing the width of the roads from ten to four rods in width. The old school-house was sold to Samuel Thayer for fourteen pounds.

1748. Josiah Marshall, A. M., was duly installed in the new school-house,

but at what salary the record is silent. The school was to be kept four months.

1749. The town voted the grammar school should *not* be kept in the school-house, and no reasons are given for this novel vote.

1750. The town voted to have a grammar schoolmaster, but voted, "by the whole town save one," they would not have Mr. Foster.

They then voted to have Mr. Dorr's son Joseph and Capt. Eleazer Taft's son Moses "to Keep School by Spells as they can agree."

The second school-house was built near the East Precinct (Milford) meeting-house "for the use of the town." Neither its size or its exact location can now be ascertained. Its cost was £212 11s.

1751. Voted that Mr. Dorr's son Joseph shall be the town's schoolmaster as soon as he can be had, and, when he cannot be had, Mr. Taft's son Moses to be the schoolmaster. These two teachers were both recent graduates from Harvard College.

1756. There were but two school-houses in the town, and the attempt to build another was defeated. It will be remembered that this was in the time of the French war, when the expenses of the town would be materially increased, and this, quite likely, was the reason of the adverse vote.

1757. Voted that the "affair of the Schoolmaster be left in the hands of the Selectmen."

1759. This year the town was divided into school districts, but, of their number, size and boundaries, we have no record.

1760. This year it was voted that each of the eleven school districts should draw just the amount of money they paid to the amount raised for the support of schools.

1763. Some of the districts, not having drawn out all their portion of the school money, asked the town to allow them interest on the same, but the town held that all the money should have been expended during the year in which it was raised and appropriated.

1765. Although there were eleven school districts in town, and but two school-houses, the town again voted they would build no more.

1771. Voted to appropriate sixty pounds lawful money for schools, with the interest from the school notes. These notes were given for land set apart for the schools which had been sold.

From this time, the care of the ordinary schools was confided to the care of the several districts.

1786. It was voted that the town "provide a Grammar School so far as to clear the town from any fine."

1789. Voted to sell the old school-house which stands on the training-field "for the most it will fetch."

1796. The first general school committee chosen.

1804. Of the sum of \$400 raised for schooling, \$33.33 was reserved, and

to be divided among such districts as "the Selectmen shall think just," the remaining portion to be equally divided among the scholars.

1811. Blackstone factory village made a school district.

1824. Raised \$800 for schooling, to be divided among fourteen school districts.

1832. The school committee were to have \$10 each for their services.

1834. There were seventeen school districts, and the town raised \$1,200 for the support of schools.

1838. The first notice of a high school is found this year, as a committee was chosen to consider the subject "of establishing a school for the benefit of the whole town."

1845. By the division of the town and the incorporation of Blackstone, Mendon was left with seven school districts.

Since 1827, the schools have been under the supervision of the school committee chosen by the town, and, during this period, the character of the schools has been much improved. New and improved text-books have been introduced, and persons of more ample qualifications have been engaged as teachers.

The high school, to which scholars from all parts of the town having the requisite qualifications are admitted, was organized in 1868, and has been continued to this time. The committees, in the main, have succeeded in procuring the services of able and competent teachers. Two of its *alumni* have graduated from colleges.

In the centre school, the scholars are graded, being distributed by the committee among the high, grammar and primary schools.

By chapter 110 of the acts of 1869, the school districts were abolished. By the same act, the town was to take possession of the school-houses and appraise them. Of this appraisal, a tax was to be laid, and the amount remitted to the tax-payers, "provided the appraised value shall not exceed the actual cost of the school-houses."

Although the people of Mendon at the time were quite generally opposed to the abolition of the districts, the feeling is now quite unanimous in the wisdom of the act.

During the school-year for 1878-9, the whole number of scholars that attended was 270, distributed among eight schools; the average attendance was 89.2 per cent.; the amount paid teachers was \$1,654.50; paid for fuel and care of fires, \$93.20; school apparatus, \$4; the pay of the teacher of the high school was \$65 per month; the wages of the other teachers varied from \$20 to \$34 per month; salary of superintendent, \$75.



## CHAPTER III.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY — MINISTERS AND MEETING-HOUSES — THE MENDON ASSOCIATION — LATER CHURCHES — AGRICULTURE — POLITICAL DOINGS — INDUSTRIES — COLLEGE GRADUATES — STATISTICS.

As the grant to the Braintree petitioners for a new plantation made it requisite that there should be an "able minister with them," it will be seen that the ecclesiastical history of the town began with its first settlement.

It has always been supposed, until recently, that Joseph Emerson was the first minister of Mendon, as the town records are silent as regards a minister, save the single mention that land was granted to "the minister." This has been interpreted to mean "the minister" whenever one should be called; but, among the State archives, a petition from the inhabitants of Mendon has been found, wherein it is averred that, if their prayer should be refused, they should lose "the valuable services of their able and faithful minister, Mr. John Rayner." This evidence established the fact that Joseph Emerson, who was not settled until 1669, was not the *first* minister. Mr. Rayner removed from Mendon in 1668, and was soon afterwards settled at Dover, N. H., succeeding his father, John Rayner, in the ministry there, who died April 3, 1669. Mr. Rayner, the son, died Dec. 21, 1676, and was probably unmarried, as his mother, Frances Rayner, was administratrix of his estate.

April 24, 1668. "It was ordered to give Mr. Benjamin Aliot a Call with his father's leave, and a letter was sent to that effect." As Benjamin did not come, he probably did not receive the apostolic benediction to that effect.

In 1668, it was agreed to build a meeting-house twenty-two feet square, but it was not finished until the following year.

Dec. 1, 1669, Rev. Joseph Emerson (son-in-law of Peter Bulkeley of Concord), was installed as minister, his father-in-law making the contract with the town. Part of his pay was to be taken "at some shop in Boston," and he was to have two pounds of butter for every cow.

Mr. Emerson continued in the ministry until the breaking out of King Philip's war, when he retired to Concord, and as he died a few years afterward, it is believed he did not again enter the ministry.

Upon the return of the inhabitants after the war, in 1680, the town took early measures for the rebuilding of the meeting-house and parsonage, which had been destroyed in the general conflagration by the Indians.

The new meeting-house was to be 26 by 24 feet and 14 feet between joints. The parsonage was to be 26 by 18 feet, with "a leantowe," 12 feet wide, at one end of the house.

Oct. 4, 1680, Rev. Grindal Rawson, son of the colonial secretary, Edward Rawson, was called to the ministry here, but was not permanently settled until

April 7, 1684. He was a classmate in college with Cotton Mather. He was installed in the parsonage with his family (he having married a daughter of Rev. John Wilson of Medfield), by 1682, as we find, in that year, a committee of three were chosen "to Rectifie Mr. Rawson's Chimneyes."

Mr. Rawson's salary was to be £55 a year, with one cord of wood for every forty-acre lot, and the train band were to cut it up at his door.

Persons living at a distance from the meeting had liberty "to build a place for their Relief upon the Sabbath day between the Meeting-House and the Town Pound." This place of relief was what, in after times, became known as the noon house. The primitive meeting-house had none of the modern improvements for warming, and a noon house, with a hole in the roof and an ample hearth beneath for charcoal, afforded a comfortable retreat during the recess at noon.

In a few years the meeting-house was found to be too small and it was voted to "Enlarge it ten feet up street and ten feet down street."

In 1710, Mr. Rawson and Mr. Jethro Coffin had liberty to build pews in the meeting-house.

In 1712, Mr. Rawson's salary had been raised to £66 yearly.

Mr. Rawson died Feb. 6, 1715, after a ministry of thirty-five years, and was buried in the westerly part of the ancient grave-yard in this town, where a monument was afterward raised to his memory by the town.

In 1713, Mr. Rawson being in feeble health, Mr. Joseph Adams was hired to supply the pulpit a portion of the year.

Dec. 20, 1715. The town and the church agreed to the settlement of Rev. Joseph Dorr as their minister, and to give him £160, to be paid in labor and materials towards building him a house and £75 as his yearly salary.

Feb. 24, 1716. Mr. Dorr accepted the above terms and became the minister of the town.

He was the youngest son but one of Rev. Edward and Elizabeth Dorr, and was born in Roxbury in 1689 or 1690. He graduated at Harvard College in 1711 and married Mary, daughter of Rev. Grindal Rawson, his predecessor in the ministry, April 9, 1724. He continued in the discharge of his ministerial duties here until his death, March 9, 1768.

Mr. Dorr was the father of the Mendon Association of Ministers, it being organized at his house, and of it he was a long time moderator.

As early as 1727, the subject of building a new meeting-house began to be agitated; but it was not erected until after a long controversy as to the most eligible site for its location, and after it had been referred to a committee from neighboring towns. Finally, in 1730, the frame of the house was raised; the town, among other articles for refreshment, providing for the occasion "a barrel of Rhum."

May 18, 1731. The opposition to the site of the meeting-house was not yet entirely placated, as the following vote will show. The town being met it was

put to vote "to see if they could find out who hath, by cutting, damnified the meeting-house," and it "passed in the negative." By this it seems the town was willing to "bury the hatchet."

In 1733, Mr. Dorr had £25 added to his salary.

In 1734, the town voted to build no pews in the meeting-house, or allow others to do so. Seats, instead of pews, had been constructed, and a committee assigned the seats, placing the women on one side and the men on the other.

1736. Although the meeting-house had been some time occupied, it was not yet finished, as we find £100 was raised to pay John Lyon when he "hath finished the meeting-house."

In 1741, quite a disturbance in the church took place, Mr. Dorr being accused of mal-administration, but in what manner does not appear. Thomas Tenney and others prayed the General Court "to set them off from Mendon on account of a controversy with Mr. Dorr." Upon the question of referring the petition to the next General Court there was a dead-lock between the Council and House of Representatives, and here the controversy ended.

This year the territory east of Mill River and the families living between Mill River and the eight-rod road were made a precinct. The precinct was soon organized and the Rev. Amariah Frost of Framingham was ordained Dec. 21, 1743. Mr. Frost remained the minister until the precinct was made a town and named Milford.

Nov. 8, 1766. The south part of the first precinct was made a precinct, by the General Court, and called the south precinct, since made the town of Blackstone.

The Rev. Mr. Balch was settled over it Sept. 14, 1768, and remained its minister until March 27, 1773. Difficulties soon arose between Mr. Balch and the people, and there was continual bickering during his stay. According to a pamphlet printed in Boston, in 1773, Mr. Balch left the precinct in the night. The pamphlet says Mr. Balch came there very poor, so that the people had to furnish him with a suit of clothes for his ordination.

After the death of Mr. Dorr, May 9, 1768, there was occasional preaching during the remainder of the year. Mr. Balch last before mentioned, a Mr. Messinger, a Mr. Penniman, and perhaps others, rendered occasional service.

Rev. Joseph Willard was installed over the first precinct, April 19, 1769, and dismissed Dec. 4, 1782. During the latter part of his ministry, there was a great lack of harmony between him and the people, arising, principally, from the tardiness with which his salary was collected and paid, finally culminating in a suit at law brought by Mr. Willard to enforce its payment. Rev. Caleb Alexander succeeded Mr. Willard as the minister of the First Parish, and was installed April 12, 1786, and dismissed Dec. 7, 1802. He removed to western New York, and died at Onondaga, April 12, 1828, aged seventy-two. He was born in Northfield, July 22, 1755, and graduated from Yale



College, in 1777. Mr. Alexander was an able teacher and writer. He was greatly instrumental in founding Hamilton College and Auburn Theological Seminary. Rev. Preserved Smith was installed Oct. 2, 1805, over the first and third parishes, preaching alternately at the meeting-houses in each parish until Oct. 10, 1812, when he was dismissed upon his own request. In November, 1787, he was settled at Rowe and continued his ministry there until May, 1804, when he came to Mendon. In 1812, the people of Rowe gave him a unanimous call to return to that town, and with which he complied. He continued to preach there for twenty years, having completed a ministry of forty-five years. In 1832, he went to reside with his son, Rev. Preserved Smith, at Warwick, until his death, Aug. 15, 1834. He graduated at Brown University in 1786.

It is supposed the pulpit was supplied for the next two years, as we find there was a committee, in 1812 and 1813, chosen for that purpose.

June 16, 1814. The first parish gave a call to Rev. Luther Bailey, with a salary of \$450. Mr. Bailey declined the call on account of the sum offered as his salary, but would accede to their request for \$550.

Nov. 28, 1814. Gave a call to the Rev. Simeon Doggett at a salary of \$350. Dec. 17, 1814, Mr. Doggett accepted the call and the parish took measures for his ordination. Mr. Doggett was ordained Jan. 17, 1815, and dismissed Dec. 4, 1830. Mr. Doggett graduated at Brown University in 1788, and was a tutor in the University from 1791 to 1796. He was a native of Middleborough, and removed to Raynham at the close of his ministry in Mendon. Many young men fitted for college under his tuition while living in Mendon.

Rev. Adin Ballou commenced his ministry in February, 1831, being installed May 3, 1832. Rev. Bernard Whitman preached the ordination sermon. Mr. Ballou closed his ministry April 1, 1842. While residing here he published an address on the subject of American Slavery, which was republished in England. Rev. Linus B. Shaw commenced his ministry in April, 1842, and closed it May 1, 1844. There was no formal installation. Rev. George M. Rice was engaged to supply the pulpit, and commenced his labors April 20, 1845, and remained until July 1, 1847. Rev. George G. Channing, brother of the late William Ellery Channing, began a supply in October, 1847, and continued his services until Dec. 1, 1849. Rev. William H. Kinsley was installed in June, 1850, Rev. E. S. Gannett, D. D., preaching the installation sermon. He remained in the discharge of his parochial duties until his death, Sept. 7, 1851. Rev. Robert Hassall succeeded Mr. Kinsley, and his ministry continued from April 1, 1852, to the second Sunday in January, 1856. He was soon after settled at Haverhill. Rev. Stillman Barber commenced his ministerial labors, May 18, 1856, and closed them the second Sunday in April, 1860. Rev. William Tate Phelan was ordained in May, 1863, and was dismissed, at his request, April 27, 1866. Rev. Richard Coleman began to preach July 1, 1866, and con-

tinued his services until February, 1868. Rev. David Philip Lindsley commenced preaching Jan. 1, 1868, and concluded his services March 31, 1871. Rev. George F. Clark, late minister at Castine, Me., began an engagement in June, 1871, and still continues to supply the pulpit.

The "Mendon Association," so called, was an association of Congregational ministers. It was organized at the house of Rev. Mr. Dorr, "Nov. y<sup>e</sup> 8th. 1751." There were present four persons, viz.:—Mr. Dorr, who was chosen moderator, and Rev. Nathan Webb of Uxbridge, scribe. The two other members were, Rev. Amariah Frost of the east precinct in Milford, and the Rev. Elisha Fish of Upton.

At this meeting David Thurston was licensed to preach, and was ordained over the church at West Medway, June 23, 1752. He was a graduate from Princeton College, N. J., in 1751. This association still continues to hold meetings.

Having, in the preceding pages, given an account of the churches down to 1730, a small space will suffice to complete the record. The present Unitarian Church was built, in 1820, by voluntary contributions, for the use of the first parish. The first Friends' meeting-house was built in 1729, and stood a short distance below the shop occupied by Timothy Ellis. The meetings in this house were discontinued by Smithfield monthly meeting, third month, 1841, and the house sold to Col. Israel Plummer, in 1850, and converted into a depot at the Northbridge Quarries, on the Providence and Worcester Railroad.

The second Friends' meeting-house was built at South Mendon (now Blackstone), in 1812.

Not long before the incorporation of Blackstone, churches were built at Millville, Blackstone and Waterford, villages in that town.

In 1828, the "North Congregational Church" was organized, and in 1830 built a church; but, after a few years of struggle, the organization was abandoned and the meeting-house sold to the Methodist Society, which had lately been gathered, for \$650. During the past year, Rev. Phineas C. Sloper of Natick has officiated as pastor of this society.

The Blackstone Canal was begun in 1824, and the first boat, the "Lady Carrington," started July 1, 1828. The cost of the canal was \$700,000, and proved a losing investment for its stockholders. It, however, was of benefit to the public, as it increased the water-power, by its dams and reservoirs, and thus aided largely in the multiplication of factories. The Blackstone cotton-mill was built in 1808, and there were smaller mills at Millville, and at Kelley's and Paine & Ray's on Mill River. Soon after this, W. & D. D. Farnum erected a large woolen-mill at Waterford, and additional machinery was operated at Millville and at Paine & Ray's.

In 1847, the Worcester and Providence Railroad superseded the canal, and not long afterward the canal corporation obtained liberty to surrender its



charter. Blackstone was an integral portion of Mendon at this time, and contained 3,524 inhabitants. In 1870, the two towns contained 6,596, of which Mendon furnished 1,175, and Blackstone, 5,421.

In Mendon, with its present boundaries, there is one box-factory, two shoddy-mills, and two boot manufactories. There are five saw and one shingle mill, one wheelwright's and three blacksmith's shops. There are two taverns, one of which, kept by David Adams, is a *true* temperance house. Two stores, in one of which the post-office is kept.

For farming purposes there is much excellent land in Mendon. With a general inclination to the south, except in the low lands, it is not subject to early frosts. Its principal productions are hay, potatoes, corn, rye, apples and cranberries. Many fruit-trees have been set out within a few years, and many patches of meadow reclaimed for the cultivation of cranberries. Large quantities of milk are sold from this town, principally at Milford.

Mendon has always been true to the Union. In the days of the Revolution, while she was passing patriotic resolutions in town meeting, she was, at the same time, passing patriotic men to the front. So in the Rebellion of 1861, almost without exception, the citizens of Mendon stood shoulder to shoulder for its overthrow.

From the days of Jefferson, until a recent period, Mendon had always been Democratic. The anti-slavery discussion, the repeal of the Missouri compromise, and the attempt to make Kansas a slave-holding State, opened the eyes of many, and the recent attempt to destroy the Union completed the disintegration of that party.

Since 1861, Mendon has been Republican, and, always, whenever a full vote is called out, by a decided and satisfactory majority. In the election of town officers partisan predilections have been very generally disregarded. As an evidence of its sanitary condition and the law-abiding disposition of its inhabitants, it is sufficient to say that but one physician and one lawyer find a home within its limits.

The principal portion of the industry of the town is expended in the cultivation of the soil. With the adoption of the improved implements of agriculture and a more intelligent application of fertilizers, whether derived from the compost-heap or the laboratory, the general aspect of the farming lands shows a decided improvement over the exhibit of thirty-five or forty years ago. If he who makes two spears of grass grow where one grew before is a public benefactor, the farmers of Mendon may justly claim an honorable distinction in that regard.

Owing to the general depression of business at this time (April, 1879), but one of the boot-shops is in operation, turning out but forty or fifty cases weekly.

The home industries, besides the ordinary care of the household, are mainly devoted to the sewing of bonnets and hats for the straw manufactories in the neighboring towns.





*Available assets.*

Taxes uncollected, . . . . .	\$1,521 90	
Cash in treasurer's hands, . . . . .	79 25	
Due from State, (State aid disbursed, pensioners,) . . . . .	264 00	
"      "      (      "      "      other soldiers,) . . . . .	187 79	
		<u>\$2,052 94</u>
Leaving the present indebtedness of the town, . . . . .		\$15,121 35

*Town officers for 1879.*—Town clerk, David Adams; selectmen, Alexander H. Allen, Albert W. Gaskill and Horace C. Adams; treasurer, John G. Metcalf; assessors, A. H. Allen, M. C. Gaskill and Jas. J. Nutter; constable, Andrew W. Judson; superintendent of schools, George F. Clark.

*Appropriations for 1879.*

Support of schools, . . . . .	\$1,200 00
Repair of roads, . . . . .	900 00
Support of poor, . . . . .	1,500 00
Repair of school houses, . . . . .	450 00
Interest on public debt, . . . . .	1,100 00
Principal of " . . . . .	1,000 00
Incidental expenses, . . . . .	300 00
	<u>\$6,450 00</u>

## M I L F O R D .

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BY REV. ADIN BALLOU.

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## CHAPTER I.

POSITION AND EXTENT — EARLY CONNECTION — INCORPORATION — TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES — GEOLOGY AND PRODUCTIONS — GROWTH AND INDUSTRIES — BOOT AND SHOE BUSINESS — RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS — ORTHODOX CHURCH — UNIVERSALIST, METHODIST, BAPTIST, EPISCOPALIAN, CATHOLIC, UNITARIAN, SPIRITUALISTS.

MILFORD is a south-easterly border town of the county, skirting on Middlesex and Norfolk near their junction in that quarter. It is bounded north by Hopkinton, east by Holliston, Medway and Bellingham, south-westerly by Mendon, and westerly by Upton. It contains 12,170 acres of land, or nineteen square miles and ten acres. Of this area about two hundred and eighty-one acres are covered with water in spring and wet seasons, and over three hundred more are occupied by roads and commons. Its latitude is about  $42^{\circ} 08' N.$ , and its longitude  $71^{\circ} 09' W.$  from Greenwich. Its centre is eighteen miles south-east from Worcester, thirty south-westerly from Boston, and twenty-five north by west from Providence, R. I. Its mean altitude above tide-water is a little less than four hundred and seventy-three feet, its lowest level being three hundred and eight feet, and its highest six hundred and thirty-seven feet nine inches. Its length from north to south is about six miles, and its breadth very irregular, averaging not more than three and one-sixth miles.

In aboriginal times this tract of territory belonged to an easterly sub-tribe or clan of the Nipmuck Indians. Five-sixths of it were included in the original purchase from those Indians of eight miles square for Quinshipaug Plantation, alias Mendon, April 22, 1662. The other sixth was bought of a family belonging to the same clan, by a Mendon committee, Feb. 19, 1691. This additional tract has always been called "The North Purchase." The present territorial domain of Milford was a part of Mendon until April 11, 1780, when it was incorporated as a town. Its south-westerly corner began to be settled slightly between 1670 and 1695. The whole tract, after purchase from the Indians,



belonged to the proprietors of Mendon, and was laid out by them from time to time in lots and parcels to suit incoming settlers. These grew more and more numerous from 1700 and downward. In 1741 they became enterprising and ambitious enough to obtain an act of incorporation setting them off as a separate precinct, sometimes designated as "the second," but more commonly as "the Easterly Precinct of Mendon." This act bears date Dec. 23, 1741, and required, as one of its indispensable conditions, that a meeting-house be built and an orthodox minister be settled within two years from the date thereof. A church of twenty-six male members, calling itself "The Second Church of Christ in Mendon," had already been organized, April 15, 1741, preliminary to anticipated precinct incorporation. Immediately after incorporation the precinct was organized, and set about the erection of a meeting-house. The exterior of that humble edifice, 40 by 35 feet in dimensions, fashioned in the usual style of those days, was completed, and Rev. Amariah Frost ordained as their first minister, Dec. 21, 1743 — just two days before their incorporation would, in default, have been forfeited.

The incorporation of this precinct into a town, April 11, 1780, was preceded by a long, intermittent struggle between the "Mill River people," then so termed, and the other inhabitants of the mother town, which, however, was amicably terminated by a mutual agreement between the parties, May 3, 1779, in the fourth year of the Revolutionary war. The act of incorporation followed without further opposition, and the town was formally organized May 1, 1780. Its population was then seven hundred and sixty souls. No certain data give the number of families, dwellings or legal voters. It may be reasonably estimated that there were one hundred and fifty families, about the same number of voters, and one hundred and twenty dwelling-houses, such as they were. These were scattered here and there on about fifty rough and crooked roads, bridle-paths, &c. The only public edifice in town was the aforesaid precinct meeting-house. Not a single school-house had then been erected; private dwellings or tenement-rooms of inferior convenience being then the only temples of learning. There was one clergyman, Rev. Mr. Frost; one physician, the first Dr. Scammell, though the senior Dr. Corbett dwelt near by in the edge of Bellingham; no lawyer, nor but one justice of the peace, Edward Rawson, and he not till 1781; one licensed innholder, at what was later known as the Godfrey stand, Jonathan Jones; one or two buckster stores in the Centre, and another at South Milford, licensed to retail spirituous liquors; here and there a mechanical craftsman of humble pretensions — a blacksmith, carpenter, tanner, shoemaker, weaver, tailor, clothier, &c.; and the other inhabitants subsisting as best they could on the productions of common husbandry. Such was Milford at its incorporation, in the afternoon of the Revolutionary struggle, yet plucky, enterprising and hopeful in its "day of small things," nothing abashed when some of its smarter neighbors jocosely named it "Broomshire." Severe were some of its trials that immediately

ensued, but, through persistent toil and endurance, it gradually rose to distinction, and won for itself an honorable fame.

The topography of the town may now be briefly delineated. Although it exhibits little of the grand and picturesque in comparison with many localities of our country, yet it has features of variegation, beauty and utility worthy of respectful appreciation. If it has some rocky, rough and unattractive portions, it has highlands, dales, plains, rivers and brooks, alike admirable and useful. It is intersected by two small rivers, both of which rise on its northern frontier and run its whole length almost parallel to each other. The most easterly of these is the Charles, which rises in a large highland swamp near Hopkinton line. It is there a mere brook, four hundred and thirty-two feet above tide-water at Boston. Thence, running a little south-easterly, it descends rapidly to a mill privilege in a locality called "Wilcat," where it receives "Deer Brook," from Hopkinton. Thence, running in a general southerly direction, it passes through Cedar Swamp Pond, over "the falls" in eastern Milford Centre, down the valley to Bellingham factory privilege, receiving various little tributaries along its course, and so passing onward to Boston. It leaves town at our lowest level above the sea, three hundred and eight feet, and affords within our limits only two or three mill-sites. The other and more westerly river issues from what is now known as North Pond, but by the Indians was called Maspenock Pond. Only the extreme southerly end of this pond belongs to Milford—the main body of it to Hopkinton. This stream has always been called Mill River by the whites. At the point of its issue it is 452 feet 9 inches above tide-water. It runs in a general southerly direction, forms a part of the boundary between Milford and Upton, falls 136 feet 9 inches before it leaves town, and affords no less than eleven mill-sites, six of which are occupied. It leaves town at a level of 316 feet above tide-water, *i. e.*, 8 feet 3 inches above the Charles at its exit. Thence its course is southward into the Blackstone at Woonsocket, R. I.

Charles and Mill rivers divide the town into three considerable sections. The most westerly of these abuts northerly on Upton, and skirts Mendon on the west. It lies on the eastern declivity and along the base of Neck Hill, extending some four miles southwardly, with an average width of perhaps one hundred and fifty rods. A large part of it is woodland, swamp, rocky pasture or otherwise non-arable. A minor portion is good farm land, and occupied by thrifty cultivators. Some of these have handsome, elevated and pleasantly situated estates. The range of highlands known as North Hill and Neck Hill presents some wild and romantic scenery, and affords, at several points, fine perspective fields in the distance to the eye of the curious visitor. The altitude on North Hill is 572 feet above sea level, and on Neck Hill, where Milford Main Street crosses Mendon line, it is 470 feet.

The section between Mill and Charles rivers is much the most important of the three, being six miles in length from north to south, that is, from Hopkin-



ton to Mendon, and from one to two miles in average breadth east and west. It not only affords desirable surface and soil for numerous valuable farms, country seats, village sites and most of the populous town centre, but very commanding and delightful prospects of the neighboring regions in all directions. This is especially true of its highland eminences. Tunnel Hill, at Hopkinton line, near Haven Street, is 616 feet above tide-water, and gives the casual beholder who strays thither a pleasing panoramic view toward the south. Silver Hill, at Aaron Clafin's country seat, presents a still more magnificent and beautiful expanse of near and distant landscape. The altitude here is 586 feet 9 inches above the ocean level. But this is exceeded by the loftier eminences of old Magomiscock Hill, so named by the Indians on account, probably, of the grand and far-reaching prospect it afforded them of their Nipmuck domain. Standing near where Ruel Cleaveland and his sister Mehetabel now dwell, their keen eyes, in a clear day, could sweep the horizon from the Blue Hills of Milton round the highlands towards the Wampanoags, the Narragansetts and the Mohegans, to their own imperial Wachusett, and even to the distant Monadnock. Their standpoint, as thus contemplated, is 637 feet and 9 inches above the sea-level. This Magomiscock Hill, or rather range of highlands, affords many commanding and charming views of the surrounding country. It is of gentle ascent on all sides, and, therefore, somewhat deceitful as to its actual height. It extends in a slightly south-easterly direction from the vicinity of Silver Hill, some two miles, till it subsides into the plains of South Milford. Its western slope descends to Mill River, along whose intervale the pleasant village of Hopedale is extending its bright array of machine-shops and homes. Toward the east it descends in gentle slopes, replete with farms, rural abodes, and the cheerful evidences of industrial improvement.

The easterly section is bounded westerly by Charles River, and on other sides by Hopkinton, Holliston, Medway and Bellingham. Its most conspicuous feature is Bear Hill, long a famous landmark, and whose highest peak is found to have an altitude of 532 feet above tide-water. Its only very steep acclivity is on its south-westerly side, where it is closely adjacent to the river, not far south-east of the railroad depots. Its base must have a circumference of over two miles. It has several eminences and depressions, and a considerable portion of it is covered with forest of older or younger growth, though farms and habitations encroach upon it, and it is rendered somewhat accessible by decent roads over and around it. Another noticeable feature of this section, less elevated, is presented by the "Rocky Woods" in its northerly portion. These woods are fitly named, for they are rocky indeed. "The North Cedar Swamp," anciently so called, was once famous, but has been thoroughly despoiled of its primeval cedars. Perhaps this swamp may be properly considered as belonging to this section. "The Great Meadow," too, lying north-east of Bear Hill, was no less famous with the early settlers of Mendon



and Sherborn, who both coveted its hay, and quarrelled for a time about their rival claims. It long ago ceased to be deemed of extraordinary value. The plain lands north of Bear Hill are valuable, and have become thickly settled. There is a range of good farms all along the eastern frontier of this section, from Braggville in the north to Bellingham in the south. And it has attained to the honor of having two very popular cemeteries located within its limits, near the cedar swamp; viz., the "Pine Grove Cemetery" and the "Catholic Cemetery."

The geological rock and composition of soil in Milford, in common with the general surrounding region, are predominantly gneissic, though the northern part of it, and especially the north-easterly part, affords some excellent granite, which is extensively quarried. There is a considerable breadth of peculiar gneiss rock crossing the town somewhat diagonally from the centre of North Purchase, south-westerly into Mendon. It seems to be largely composed of quartz, with little mica and hornblende, and scarcely any feldspar. It is very hard and brittle. Much of it is of a reddish-yellow hue, as if oxidated by a slight infusion of iron, though portions of it are dark gray and blackish. It has an eccentric and obstinate fracture, and crumbles into an uncouth gravel. In some places below the surface it is found in layers of from a few inches to a foot in thickness, but in general appears in rather unshapely blocks. It is not a desirable kind of stone, nor, when disintegrated, a good ingredient of the soil, yielding no potassa, and giving a certain sponginess to the loam. Neither does it tread or wear well on roads. But the common gray gneiss and its detritus generally neutralize it to a considerable extent. The result is a decent soil throughout the town, quite strong and fertile in spots, but rather deficient generally in potassa, alumina and the phosphates. These are desirable fertilizers, and are used with good effect. For roads the town has a good crusher of suitable stone, and macadamizes liberally.

Of the flora and fauna of the town it is hardly necessary to speak, as our vegetable and animal productions, native and exotic, are the same with those of the immediate surrounding country. The present forest growth is comparatively young. The ancient cedars are gone, probably never to be renewed. The chestnuts and the oaks are diminutive in size compared with their sturdy ancestors. The railroads have made chestnut timber now the most valuable. This was the predominant timber of our aboriginal forests, and still is so. Beasts, birds, reptiles and fish, with a few exceptions, remain in kind, but not in abundance. Rattlesnakes, once fearfully numerous, have been nearly exterminated. Ferocious beasts have ceased out of the land. Wild game is scarce, and useful fish are kept down to a minimum. Milford can boast of but little natural wealth. It has no mines of the precious, or, indeed, any other metals; no slate or limestone; no marl; only one small bed of clay, and a few deposits of good peat. Its quarries of granite already opened, and promising to be opened on a larger scale, make the chief item in its natural inventory. Its water-power,

woodlands and cultivable soil fill up the account. These, though not large, have a respectable value. The town must depend mainly on manufacturing, mechanical and mercantile thrift. In these it presents a creditable exhibition.

The growth of Milford and its productive industries was rather slow till 1845, when the branch railroad to South Framingham was auspiciously in progress. Before that period, several important developments of prosperity had successively taken place, less marked but full of promise. In 1780, its population was 760; in 1790, it was 839; in 1800, 907; in 1810, 973; in 1820, 1,160; in '30, 1,360; in '40, 1,773; in '50, 4,819; in '55, 7,489; in '60, 9,132; in '65, 9,108; in '70, 9,890, and '75, 9,818. During this period the number of families rose from 150 to 2,103; the number of dwellings from 120 to 1,549; the number of legal voters from 150 or less to 2,118, and the total valuation of estates from a proportionately small sum to over \$5,000,000. The industrial productions of these ninety-five years advanced in the same ratio. At the outset they consisted chiefly of agricultural products—of what was raised on perhaps one hundred and twenty farms, and by collateral domestic thrift. The amount of these must be guessed, rather than estimated. But the inhabitants had always a predisposition and genius for mechanical and manufacturing pursuits. These steadily gained ground, as did those of trade, over agricultural interests, though it took them a quarter of a century or more after the town was incorporated to obtain the ascendancy. Boot and shoe making got started as early as 1795, but on a very small scale. The pioneers commenced in petty apartments of ordinary dwelling-houses or crude outbuildings. They bought a few dollars' worth of upper and sole leather, made up a dozen pairs of boots or shoes, and then started off with them on foot to find purchasers. If successful, they increased their stock, worked it up, took it off in a horse-wagon to market into the neighboring towns, often going as far as Boston and Providence. Next the tanning and dressing of leather became profitable, as well as convenient. In the course of ten or fifteen years, little fourteen by sixteen one-story shops sprung up about town, which the bosses crowded almost to suffocation with journeymen and apprentices. Thus the boot, shoe and leather business, before 1825, distanced all other kinds of industrial production. But even at that date, the largest boot manufactory in town was a two-story building, not more than thirty-two by twenty feet in size. In 1837, we had the first authentic return of Milford industries, by order of General Court, and its showing was not very formidable. The following is its abridged substance in part:—one cotton-mill, 1,200 spindles, consumed 13,000 pounds cotton, turned out 80,000 yards, valued at \$5,000, employed 22 hands; capital invested, \$15,000.

Boots manufactured, 128,000 pairs, valued at \$212,200; employed 342 hands. Hides curried, 5,000; value of leather, \$12,000; hands, 5; capital, \$5,000. The other articles specified are sheep and their wool, chairs and cabinet-ware, tin-ware, straw bonnets, varnish, clothing, shoe-pegs, wagon-



irons and whips. All these minor articles netted only \$28,516. This gives us the preponderance of the boot and leather industry in 1837. The printed return of 1845 reports 243,890 pairs of boots manufactured, valued at \$373,835, the work of 482 males and 220 females; total of employes, 702. The leather curried was valued at \$30,000. In this return cotton manufacture, whips, &c., drop out, and several new articles are reported, few of which were of much account. Among them were hatting, saddle and harness making, soap manufacture, stone quarrying, lumber dressing, mechanics' tools, firewood prepared, boot-boxes made, sash and blind business, wheelwrighting, &c., — none of them on a large scale. Some agricultural statistics are worth quoting, viz.: — "Horses, 205; value, \$11,045; neat cattle, 917; value, \$18,022; swine, 414, \$2,954; Indian corn, 5,821 bushels, \$4,657; rye, 804 bushels, \$725; barley, 604 bushels, \$453; oats, 1,929 bushels, \$750; potatoes, 20,123 bushels, \$6,036; other esculent vegetables, 1,521 bushels, \$610; hay, 1,538 tons, \$17,500; fruit raised, 13,552 bushels, \$5,000; butter, 31,124 pounds, \$5,602; cheese, 17,444 pounds, \$1,050."

In 1855 the return mounted up to more striking figures in all the branches of manufacturing and mechanical industry. Then boots of all kinds manufactured amounted to 1,042,944 pairs, and shoes of all kinds to 5,048 pairs — total value, \$1,787,315.20; employing male and female hands to the number of 3,398. Several new and profitable branches of business were reported, but further details are omitted. When we reach 1875, the statistics are much more elaborate and formidable. Then the town reported itself to have a population of 9,818, pursuing nearly fifty occupations, working up stock in over eighty establishments to the value of \$2,353,251. In these eighty odd establishments the buildings were valued at \$335,000, the average amount of stock constantly on hand at \$627,935, and the machinery in use at \$211,466. They kept seventeen steam-engines in operation, with seven hundred and ninety horse-power, and six water-wheels, with one hundred and sixty-five horse-power. In these establishments were 2,618 employes, receiving wages to the amount of \$1,110,532. There were twenty-one boot and shoe establishments (several of them large enough to hold all those of 1825), operating on a capital of \$710,800, and turning out goods valued at \$2,741,935. It would be tedious in this abstract to repeat many of the specifications returned for this year. The two branch railroads, Boston and Albany and Worcester and Providence, kept open communication with all the great metropolitan centres; nearly fifteen hundred boot and shoe makers plied their tools and skill, one hundred and forty merchants and shopkeepers dealt out their various stores, one hundred and forty-five farmers furnished their kinds of supply for man and beast, one hundred and seventy-four machinists wrought out the products of their ingenuity, twenty-six foundrymen faced their furnaces, eighty carpenters were busy at their callings, twenty-five blacksmiths sweat at their anvils, ninety-two dress-makers and twenty-three milliners attired the fair sex, forty-five painters



garnished the houses and other articles in their line, two commodious hotels entertained travelers and boarders, eighteen saloon-keepers ministered to longing appetites, six male and fifty-seven female teachers taught the public schools, two national banks and one savings bank watched over the currency, three post-offices received and distributed the mail, thirteen physicians treated the sick, six lawyers gave counsel in legal matters, one district judge and numerous justices of the peace preserved public order, three printing-offices diffused intelligence, and ten clergymen devoted themselves to the salvation of souls. Much more might be told of the town's upward march in municipal importance, but, so far as necessary, it may be better presented under other heads.

Next the religious history, development and status of the town may be given. There are seven regularly organized religious societies, which have church edifices and maintain public worship, besides other peculiarists, who, without much organization, hold occasional meetings of a religious nature. Originally there was but one organized society, "the standing order," so called, of Congregationalists. Mention has already been made of the church organized April 15, 1741. Its members seceded from the First Church in Mendon, under plea of having been "aggrieved" in their former relations, and succeeded in getting themselves recognized by an ecclesiastical council as the "Second Church in Mendon." They chose John Jones and Josiah Adams as their ruling elders; also Nathaniel Nelson and Abraham Jones as their deacons. All these were formally ordained, and public worship was more or less frequently held in the dwellings of certain members. Presently, as has already been told, the easterly precinct was incorporated, a meeting-house built, or at least the exterior of one, and Rev. Amariah Frost ordained as the first pastor, Dec. 21, 1743. Meantime a full reconciliation was effected with the mother church, and its pastor, Rev. Joseph Dorr. Rev. Amariah Frost, who appears to have been a learned, prudent, Christian gentleman, held the pastoral office until his death March 14, 1792, at the age of 72 years, and in the 49th year of his ministry. Immediately after the town was incorporated, the church took the title, "First Church of Christ in Milford," which has continued to the present time. During the first ten or twelve years of Mr. Frost's pastorate, he had considerable trouble in his church from a species of Comeoutism, that originated probably in Whitefield's revivalism, or the influences that followed it. The Comeouters, headed by one Samuel Hovey, who set up as a lay preacher, were quite numerous for a time, and kept up a separate meeting in private houses, chiefly in the North Purchase. But their zeal cooled off, and Mr. Frost's prudence brought most of them back into his fold. For many years his moderate salary was raised by rate, but afterwards mostly by voluntary contribution in some form. He christened a large number of children, added many members to his church, solemnized about four hundred marriages, and educated a considerable number of young men for college or the professions. He died while his meeting-house was in process of enlargement and thorough repair.

The nine years immediately succeeding Mr. Frost's death were inauspicious. Religious opinion became divided, sectaries multiplied, the town awkwardly performed its assumed parochial functions, and forty candidates were tried before a new pastor could be agreed on by concurrence of the church and parish. At length Rev. David Long gave satisfaction, and was ordained May 20, 1801. His pastorate continued forty-three years, and terminated in his resignation, May 15, 1841. He was in no respect inferior to his predecessor, and, in several respects, probably superior. In natural ability, learning, judgment, and all the qualities of a successful clergyman in a rural community, he commanded general reverence and confidence. He was strictly evangelical in faith, ecclesiasticism and pietistical methods, and maintained his position with great fidelity. But he officiated in more turbulent times than Mr. Frost, and found more difficulties to face. Division and antagonism prevailed among the people, and he lived to see new tastes spring up even within his own fold, which hankered for more attractive pulpit performances. About the year 1819, a new church edifice was proposed, and a very handsome one erected. This movement occasioned a bitter controversy between the town party, so called, and the parish party. Both parties claimed the old meeting-house. The parish party reorganized itself so as legally to inherit precinct rights, and hold them by final decision of the courts. But party feelings, party lines and party rivalry involved many unpleasant consequences. It were useless to particularize. The new parish meeting-house was completed, elegantly furnished, dedicated and enjoyed, yet with a heretical rival set up the next year in its neighborhood, which became the cherished rendezvous of many antagonistic minds. Nevertheless, the Congregationalist Church and parish prospered, maintained its preponderance of zeal, wealth and numbers, and to this day rejoices in its strength. Mr. Long, like his predecessor, served faithfully on a meagre salary, practiced a masterly economy, laid no burdens on his people, and when he felt that a successor of more brilliant address was desired, quietly resigned, but still continued to serve the town as a trusted school committee-man till his death, March 13, 1850.

Rev. Smith Bartlett Goodenow succeeded Mr. Long. He was installed Oct. 30, 1844, and dismissed Jan. 1, 1846. He was followed by Rev. Preston Pond, who was installed May 24, 1849, and dismissed Feb. 16, 1852. His successor was Rev. James Trask Woodbury, who was installed July 15, 1852, and died suddenly in his pastorate, Jan. 16, 1861. Rev. Alfred A. Ellsworth was ordained Sept. 4, 1862, and dismissed June 28, 1865. Rev. James B. Thornton was installed Nov. 22, 1865, and resigned Jan. 28, 1868. Rev. Sylvester C. Kendall was installed Aug. 5, 1868, and dismissed June 12, 1873. Rev. Merrill Richardson, D. D., was installed June 12, 1873, and died in his popular pastorate, Dec. 12, 1877. The present incumbent, Rev. Oliver S. Dean, was installed Sept. 20, 1877, and ministers to his people with commanding respect. The church edifice was removed westward its whole



length in 1868, raised up so as to afford space for a suite of basement rooms in the handsomest modern style, much extended in length, and completely renovated, — all at an expense of over \$25,000. Its accommodations, beautifications, fine organ, &c., are eminently satisfactory to the congregation and public. It will seat a large concourse, and has an average Sunday attendance of several hundreds. The parish has been paying its pastors, since 1868, an annual salary varying from \$2,000 to \$3,500. The church numbers 79 male members, and 210 females; a total of 289. Its Sunday school numbers between 300 and 400, and the library thereof over 800 volumes. Several subsidiary benevolent societies are in active co-operation in connection with the parish and church.

The Universalist Society ranks next in age. Universalism began to be preached in Milford, probably, in 1781 or '82, by Rev. Adam Streeter. The society was organized with eleven members in August, 1785. It bore the title, "The Independent Christian Society, commonly called Universalist." Dec. 28, 1787, it adopted the religious compact recommended by the then recently organized General Convention of Universalists to all its constituent societies; a document too long for insertion here. The society held regular Sunday meetings once a month in the dwellings of its members for many years. In 1791, the town voted them the privilege of holding meetings in the "Town's Meeting-house on week days, when not otherwise wanted." They continued to hold meetings, either monthly or less frequently, down to 1819. The preachers who supplied, either regularly once a month or occasionally, from 1785 to 1819, were Revs. Adam Streeter, Zephaniah Lathe, Joshua Flagg, Mr. Bigelow, Richard Carrique, Caleb Rich, John Murray, and others whose names are not recorded. In 1819, when the controversy arose between the town and parish parties about the ownership of the old precinct meeting-house, the Universalist Society became at once the focus of new affiliations, and was the prominent heir of public favor from the excited town party. The result was the "Brick Church," often-so designated. Twelve proprietors associated themselves to erect that edifice, complete it for public worship, and sell or rent the pews to whoever might want them. Rivalry and ambition took care to make it a fraction larger than the parish sanctuary, to give it a substantial tower sixty feet high rather than a spire of loftier pretensions, to procure it a bell five hundred weight heavier, and to furnish it with one of Holbrook's best village clocks. All this was accomplished, and the house dedicated Jan. 10, 1821, with great rejoicings. The Universalists of Milford were now a people prepared to assume and maintain a respectable religious standing. Since 1821, they have had a succession of some twenty pastors; viz., Revs. Thomas Whittemore, Jacob Frieze, Adin Ballou, Elbridge Trull, Rufus S. Pope, II. W. Morse, Z. Baker, William Bell, W. R. G. Mellen, Benjamin H. Davis, William Coe, Willard Spaulding, Henry A. Eaton, David H. Plumb, James R. Johnson, George Hill, Russell P. Ambler, G. L. Demarest, Edward A.



Perry, and the present incumbent, Royal T. Sawyer. Their pastorates have been of various length, from one year to six, and their salaries per annum from \$300 to \$1,800. The present one is \$1,200.

The society has passed through several vicissitudes of prosperity and adversity. It has been reorganized once or twice under revised constitutions, with some little change of title. Under the pastorate of Rev. Henry A. Eaton, a church of communicants was formed, and recognized with the solemnities instituted by the order. This was in 1849 or '50. About the same period, the society erected their present handsome church edifice on Pearl Street, at a cost of over \$9,000. It was dedicated May 1, 1851. It has about 600 rentable sittings, a valuable organ that cost \$1,800, a commodious basement vestry, and most other modern conveniences. The average Sunday congregation numbers 300; the communicants of the church, 28; the Sunday school, 125, and its library 425 volumes. The society is at this time in a flourishing and hopeful state.

The Methodists gained an early foothold in Milford. Their circuit-riders began to preach in the North Purchase in 1792, and, with their sterling zeal, soon planted a society there. A preaching station was presently established in connection with a twin one in (Hayden Row) Hopkinton, and regular ministers were officiating before 1801. There was a devoted class in vigorous activity that year under Rev. Joseph Snelling, with Edmund Bowker and Ebenezer McFarland as leaders. A meeting-house was built in 1815, 34 by 30 feet, with 12 feet height of posts, which, with occasional repairs, continued till burnt down by rowdy incendiaries Oct. 23, 1860. A long succession of preachers, mostly Episcopal, but some of them Protestant Methodists, ministered to the society till it became defunct, some twenty years or more ago. Those preachers, so far as records and tradition now show, were: Revs. George Cannon, John Harper, George Pickering, Joseph Snelling, Joshua Soule, Nehemiah Coy, Elijah Hedding, Isaac Bonney, Erastus Otis, Hezekiah Thatcher, Herman Perry, Thomas W. Tucker, O. Robbins, A. T. Temple, Nathaniel Spindle, John Dale, Lorenzo Johnson, Thomas Johnson, Thomas F. Morris, William Tozzer and Leonard Wakefield. The society passed through many phases of fortune and polity until it gradually died out, or was superseded in 1844 by the present flourishing society in the town centre.

This society commenced by holding prayer, praise and conference meetings in private houses in 1836. These grew at length into meetings for public worship in the old town house. The result of development was a church edifice and parsonage on Exchange Street by aid of a liberal donation from their wealthy brother in the faith, Hon. Lee Claflin, late of Hopkinton. The parsonage was wholly his gift. The sanctuary was much enlarged and improved in 1864. The society's property is now valued at \$14,000, entirely free of debt. Its communicants number 240; average Sunday audiences, 250; Sunday school, 200, and library 750 volumes. It has been served by the follow-

ing named preachers and pastors, none of whose terms have exceeded three years: Revs. Henry E. Hemstead, Joseph Whitman, C. W. Ainsworth, Albert A. Cooke, Isaac Smith, Aaron D. Sargeant, Daniel Richards, J. M. Bailey, George G. Jones, Edward S. Best, Joseph Scott, William G. Leonard, Loranus Crowell, William H. Hatch, Rodney H. Howard, Porter M. Vinton, and George F. Eaton, the present incumbent. The society seems to have a bright and assured future.

The Baptists of this town deserve respectful mention. They are less numerous than the Methodists, but have a creditable standing among their contemporary religionists. Their organization is styled "The Central Baptist Church and Society." Their church was organized Feb. 15, 1853, and recognized by an ecclesiastical council, March 10 of that year, having then twenty-three constituent members. Its meetings for public worship were held at first in the Brick Church, and then in various public halls, until, by persistent exertions and some aid from benevolent friends outside, they completed their commodious church-edifice on Pine Street. This was dedicated, with appropriate solemnities, July 18, 1861. There have been a few Baptists in town, and occasional preaching of their faith and order, mostly in private dwellings or in school-houses, from 1780 downward. Indeed, it may be presumed that the line might be run back to early precinct times, say 1750. But the denomination gained no organized foothold here till 1853. The Baptists here, as everywhere, are a sober, determined and devoted people, who, if not fast, are sure-footed. They have struggled hard under considerable difficulties, and grown slowly, but may reasonably expect solid success. Their sanctuary cost \$7,000, and is encumbered by no burden of debt. They have a good organ of twenty-two stops, an average Sunday audience of over 100, a resident membership of 113 communicants, a Sunday school of 117, and a library of 270 volumes. Their succession of pastors has been as follows: Revs. J. W. Russell, Levi Abbott, Horace G. Hubbard, K. Holt, Joseph Ricker, Mr. Paige, Mr. Carr, who died in about three months, and Julius B. Robinson, whose pastorate closed May 25, 1879, to the great regret of his people and many outside friends. Rev. E. A. Woodsun followed, installed Sept. 19, 1879.

The Protestant Episcopal Church has a representative organization in this town, known as "Trinity Parish." It was organized in April, 1864, and incorporated by act of the Legislature in May of that year. Its membership then consisted of twenty persons. Religious services of this denomination were first held in Irving Hall on Sunday, May 17, 1863, by Rev. Reese F. Alsop of St. John's Church, Framingham. Others followed, resulting in the organization of the parish and church. After organization, public worship was regularly held in Washington Hall, until the consecration of a church edifice, March 21, 1871. That edifice stands on Congress Street, corner of Exchange. It is an ample structure in the Gothic style of architecture, with a new tower recently added; affords the usual conveniences of a public sanctuary, and



exhibits the peculiar features everywhere dear to Episcopalian veneration. It has also a fine organ to lead its choral devotions. The entire cost of the whole was about \$12,000, paid by subscription of members and outside donors. A dignified and reverent respectability characterizes the Protestant Episcopal Church wherever it casts the shadows of its sanctuaries, and it is so here. Its pillars are persons of weight, culture and taste, and their less distinguished associates are people of reputable moral worth. They have an average Sunday audience of 100 or more, about 80 communicants, a Sunday school of nearly 60, and a library of 300 volumes. Their succession of rectors, commencing Jan. 1, 1864, has been: Revs. Henry Adams, George G. Jones, E. B. Allen, Reginald H. Howe, John M. Benedict, William F. Lloyd, and George R. Wheelock, recently resigned. Permanence and prosperity are the probable destiny of this society.

St. Mary's Church (Roman Catholic) is now by far the largest religious organization in town, having an average attendance on its principal Sunday services outnumbering that of all the other congregations together. Yet it is of comparatively recent date. Previous to 1830, there were no known Catholics in Milford. There may have been, first and last, half a dozen Irishmen, and one or two of Catholic christening, but there was no profession. After that period, here and there, one appeared as a craftsman or laboring jobber, who avowed his religion. The construction of the branch railroad to Framingham, between 1844 and 1848, brought swarms of them into town, and the great Irish famine doubled their number. The boot manufacturers gave them much employment, and they entered into every kind of practicable business. Meantime they were as sheep without a shepherd, and were naturally looked after by those whose professional duty it was to see that they were not lost. Occasionally a priest called them together for religious services in their private dwellings. In 1848, Rev. John Boyce from Worcester commenced the erection of a church edifice. About the same time he organized the church and parish known as St. Mary's, and set in motion the necessary parochial operations. The church edifice was a wooden one of no extraordinary pretensions, but adapted to the then humble circumstances and wants of the people. It was erected in the neighborhood of "the Plains," so called, on the road to Holliston, north of Bear Hill. It was consecrated in due time, and continued to be occupied till Dec. 25, 1870, when the spacious stone semi-cathedral on Granite Street was dedicated. Its first stone was laid with solemn prelatical ceremonies, by Rt. Rev. J. J. Williams, June 1, 1866, and it was nearly five years in building. It stands on the corner of Granite and Sumner streets, and is one hundred and sixty-five feet in length by seventy-two in width, besides the porches, the foundation of an intended lateral tower, which is to be of solid stone masonry. An extemporized wooden tower near by sustains, for the present, one of the richest toned bells in America. It was cast in Ireland, a few years since, and with its hangings weighs 4,000 pounds. The church



superstructure itself was built of a whitish granite taken from a quarry in Rocky Woods, is in the early English style of architecture, and seats about 1,400 persons, without extras. During 1878, the organ of the "Old South Church" in Boston was purchased and translated to St. Mary's choral gallery. Under three-fourths of the edifice is a commodious chapel for daily services and mass for children on Sunday; and it is furnished throughout with a rich plentitude of symbols, statuary and paintings — some of the latter displaying rare excellence. Attached to this spacious sanctuary are two acres of land occupied by priest's house and garden. The entire cost of the premises is stated to have been over \$100,000. The projection, direction, execution and consummation of this whole parochial establishment reflect great credit on Rev. Father Cuddihy, whose long pastorate of this parish has been replete with energetic achievement for its welfare and prosperity. He took charge of St. Mary's in 1857, which at that time included not only the Catholics of this town, but of a large surrounding region now supplied by several independent pastors. He has still 3,500 souls under his care, requiring 200 baptisms a year, and affording an average of 1,000 attendants on high mass, every week, and a Sunday school of about 800. He has always had one or more sub-pastors to assist him in his arduous duties. His predecessors, of longer or shorter official service, were Rev. Fathers James Fitton (now of East Boston, first here), John Boyce, George A. Hamilton, Michael Carrahal and Edward Farrelly, who died in his pastorate here Aug. 13, 1857.

The Catholics of Milford have had a remarkable growth in numbers, industrial enterprise, aggregate wealth, intelligence, social standing and political weight. They have also made creditable moral improvement. Notwithstanding some defects and delinquencies, which good Catholics deplore and are striving to correct, the general body exhibits a fair average of civil and moral worth. Protestant civilians and moralists, whose educational prejudices inclined them to anticipate serious evils from their influx, confess themselves, on the whole, happily disappointed. As a religious society their prospects are eminently auspicious. Natural increase, growing intelligence, gradual accumulation of property, reformation of unfortunate habits, devotion to their church, and above all, the oversight of an ecclesiasticism the most potent and efficient in Christendom, all concur to insure them a commanding future among us.

The seventh religious society in town was organized Oct. 27, 1867. It is an independent Congregational parish, though associated by membership and religious fellowship with "The Worcester Conference of Congregational (Unitarian) and other Christian Societies." At formation it designated itself "a Liberal Christian Society, to be called The Hopedale Parish." It made no declaration of faith or principles, other than might be inferred from the preamble and articles of its constitution. Nor has it ever had any church organization distinct from that of the parish. Its origin and circumstances rendered its constituency somewhat peculiar. It became the successor, heir and assign

of "The Hopedale Community." That community was formed in 1841, located at Hopedale in 1842, vigorously prosecuted as a joint-stock and a united industrial association till 1856, and then continued as a practical Christian religious society, with certain guaranties, till 1867. It was projected, and sustained till 1856, as an attempted exemplification of all the cardinal principles of practical Christianity, both individually and socially. It has an important history of its own, but too long for this sketch. Suffice it to say, that, though one of the noblest of undertakings, it lacked some indispensable conditions of permanent success, and its members had not the requisite wisdom, goodness and perseverance to master adverse influences. They therefore fell back into the prevailing order of society. A part of them naturally dispersed in the course of a few years, new comers took their places, business prospered under the skilful management of the firms and corporations which succeeded the community, and its remaining members were blended with a complex population. The result was, "The Hopedale Parish," which inherited, by subsequent amicable arrangements, a nice little church edifice and grounds worth some \$8,000, the Sunday school, its library of five hundred volumes, and a fund to support said library of \$800. Also the community cemetery and other residuary leavings of less importance. The new parish called the senior pastor of the community, who had resided in Hopedale since 1842, to be their pastor, and he has continued in that office to the present time, on an annual salary of \$800. It will be understood that he is the writer of this paper. The parish is small, never having over one hundred and twenty voting members. The average attendance on public worship cannot be rated at over one hundred; though it would be somewhat larger if it included the Sunday school. But the latter, which ranges from sixty to seventy-five attendants, has separate forenoon exercises, and is but slightly represented in the regular afternoon congregation. There are pleasant privileges and associations connected with the parish, small as it is. Hopedale itself, as a village, is a beautiful and cheerful one — steadily growing and prosperous. Several of its families attend public worship in the various sanctuaries of the town centre. Others quietly dispense with regular public ministrations and worship as unedifying to them. But church-goers or not, a general good order and kindly feeling prevails among the Hopedale population.

There is a considerable number of modern Spiritualists in town, who have held many public meetings as well as social séances, during the past twenty-five years; but have sustained no permanent organization. A Unitarian Society in the centre existed for a time, held public worship and had a minister, but disbanded after a year or two of experiment. There was also, at one time, a society calling themselves "Friends of Progress," which had only a brief existence. Probably there are a few peculiarists difficult to describe, and not a few sceptics, indifferentists, and unchurched outsiders of various characteristics. It may, however, be truthfully said that Milford has never had a propor-

tionately large criminal class ; that it has never developed much of superstition or fanaticism among its population ; and that, though it has a fair quota of minds inflexibly settled in their religious or non-religious convictions, there are few municipalities in the world whose inhabitants are more kindly tolerant of each other's differences.

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## CHAPTER II.

MILITARY AND PATRIOTIC RECORD — REVOLUTION — INSURRECTIONS — MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS — EDUCATION AND LITERARY STANDING — MAINTENANCE OF THE POOR — SANITARY EFFORTS — FIRE DEPARTMENT — ROADS AND WAYS — PARKS AND COMMONS — CEMETERIES.

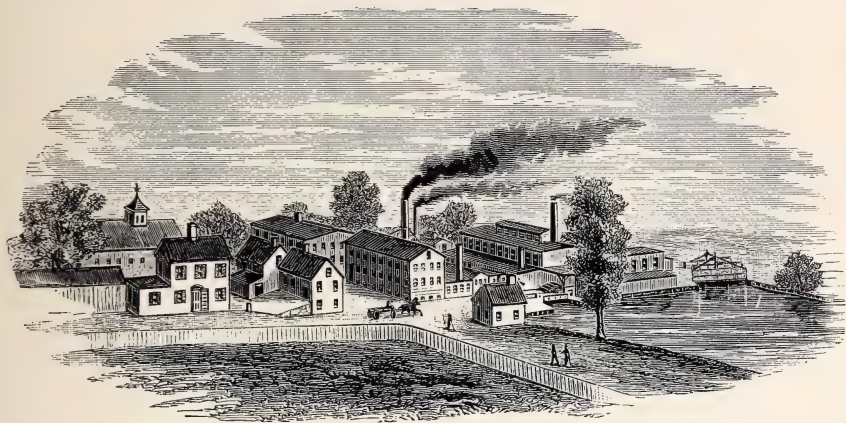
In respect to patriotism, warlike sacrifice and martial gallantry, this town has always sustained an eminent reputation. It has bred no cowards or traitors. And even the number on its soil, who, from religious scruples, stood aloof from military organizations has always been small. In its early precinct days it is said to have been well represented by officers and soldiers in the French and Indian war of 1744 to '48. In the great French war of 1755 to '63, which resulted in annexing the Canadas, &c., to the British Empire, the muster-rolls and provincial records, although defective, bear testimony that this, as well as every part of Mendon, contributed liberally of men, blood and treasure to the triumph achieved. When the Revolutionary war opened, no portion of Mendon exhibited more stanch patriotism, zeal and devotion than the citizens east of Neck Hill,—soon to be set off as Milford. Of the four companies sent by the parent town to the early seat of hostilities, two were largely manned and officered from the easterly precinct ; one of these, if not both, flew with gallant alacrity to the near neighborhood of Boston, the moment the battle of Lexington sent forth its alarm. This sketch cannot admit the detail of names, or even of collective movements, which belong to the local history of that period. Suffice it to say, that through every stage of that war, before and after Milford became a town, its record is replete with deeds of heroic patriotism and self-sacrificing devotion to the great cause of American Independence. Among its native-born officers and soldiers, the noblest was Alexander Scammell. He was distinguished for all the personal, social and military qualities which rendered him a favorite in Washington's family, and made him an adjutant-general of the United States armies. He was born in 1744, graduated at Harvard University in 1769, fought and was wounded at the battle of Saratoga in 1777, made adjutant-general in 1780, was field officer at the siege of Yorktown, Sept. 30, 1780, when he was surprised and captured by a party of the enemy's cavalry, who basely wounded him after surrender.



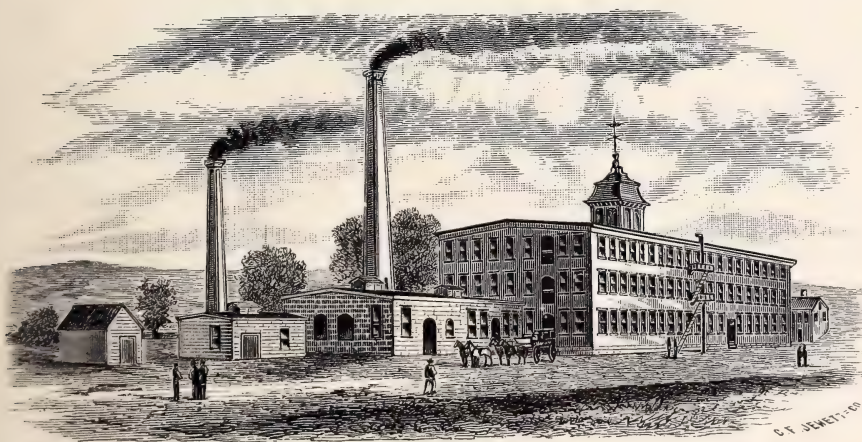
He died of his wounds, at Williamsburg, Va., Oct. 6, 1781, deeply lamented by his countrymen and friends as a pre-eminent hero-martyr.

In the distressing financial times which immediately followed the establishment of national independence, and which bred the Shays insurrection, Milford sympathized deeply with the suffering classes, but gave no countenance to the insurrectionists, and stood ready to aid in crushing the armed malcontents; yet, when they disbanded, it earnestly petitioned the General Court to give them amnesty. Thus its people acted the part of loyal pacificators. When the alarm occasioned by the whiskey insurrection of 1794 in Pennsylvania came, and the one occasioned by the threatened war with France in 1798, the town promptly prepared to answer the requisitions of government, by providing all the necessaries, and holding their contingent of men ready (as the records phrase it) "to march at a minute's warning." A vigorous train-band was liberally fostered, as had been done from early precinct times. In 1803, the enterprising young men of the period organized an artillery company, which had a long run of popularity extending through forty-three years. It had two brass field-pieces, with generally full ranks in nice uniform, and was commanded nearly always by the most gallant officers "to the manner born." It only had a single opportunity to go into camp service, which was in 1814, near the close of the second war with England, and then for only about sixty days. The State government feared a British assault on Boston from formidable fleets hovering along the coast. But the danger was soon over, and the company honorably discharged. This company gave initiatory training to one brigadier-general, two colonels, eight majors, fourteen captains, no further promoted, and a proportionate number of lower officers. Probably most of its majors would have risen higher had not the company for the most part, been attached to an artillery battalion distinct from the ordinary militia.

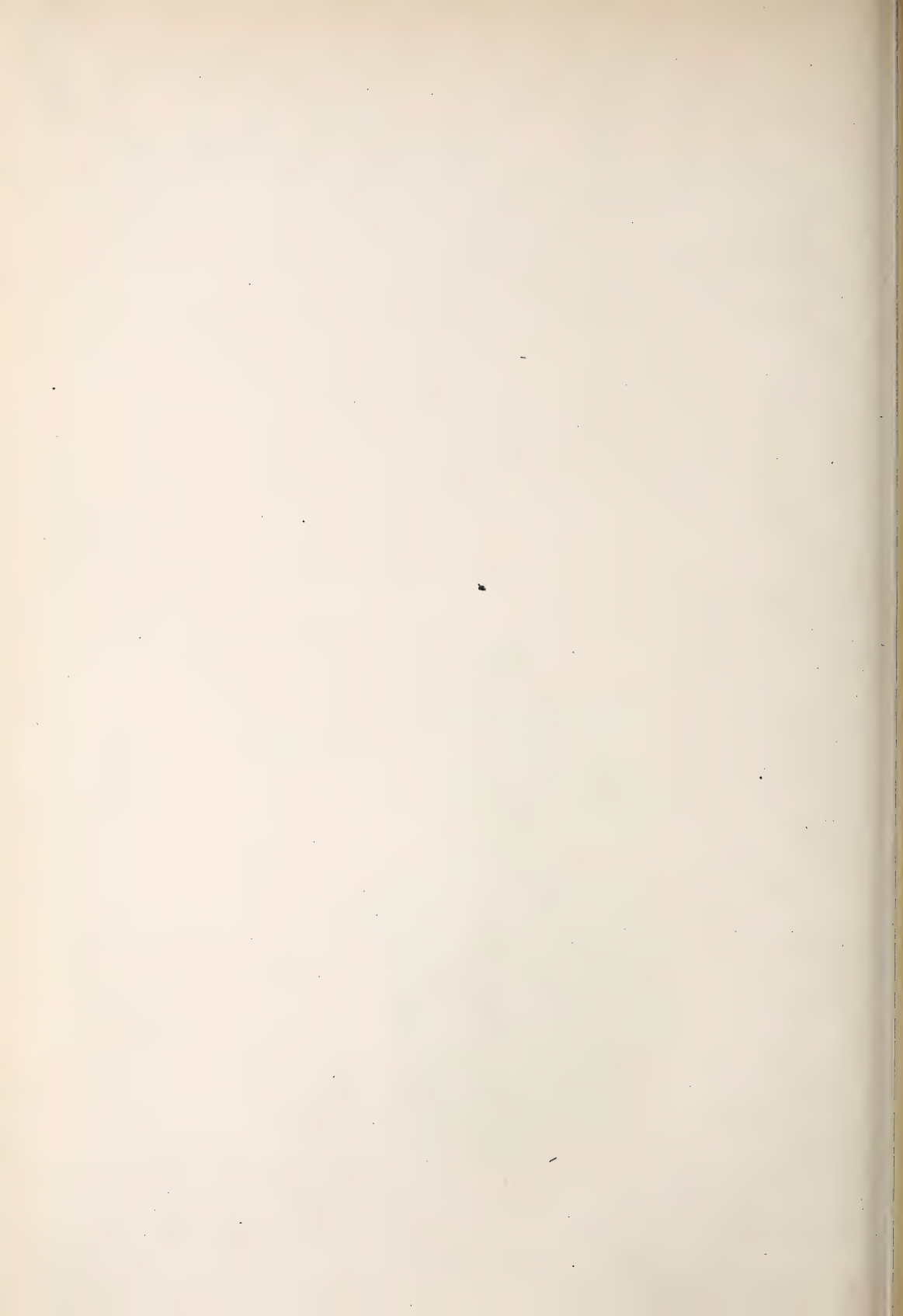
A fine company of light infantry, called "The Lafayette Guards," was organized in 1826, and sustained a good reputation till 1846,—twenty years,—when it was disbanded. It reared two lieutenant-colonels, eight captains, no further promoted, and a proportionate number of subordinate officers. The ordinary infantry company, which began with the militia organization immediately succeeding the Revolutionary war and continued till 1840, when superseded by the "Volunteer Militia," produced seven colonels and lieutenant-colonels, one major, twelve captains, no further promoted, &c. In 1840, nine Revolutionary pensioners still survived in town. The enrolled militia, liable to be mustered only in extraordinary emergencies, rose from one hundred and forty-five in 1840, to nearly fourteen hundred in 1875. A smart volunteer company, designated as "Co. A," was organized in 1853, which had a popular run till the war of Rebellion, when a considerable part of it became incorporated with a New York regiment, called "The Mozart," and went into United States service. It had a succession of five captains, one of whom became a lieutenant-colonel.



HOPEDALE MACHINE CO., AND DUTCHER TEMPLE CO.'S WORKS, HOPEDALE, MASS.



HOPEDALE MACHINE COMPANY'S WORKS, HOPEDALE, MASS.





Milford claims an honorable record, for contributions of men, life, blood, treasure, and various useful services in the great war of Rebellion. She furnished, directly and indirectly, 1,205 men for the battle-fields of the Union,—a surplus of 195 over all regular requisitions. Of these fifty were killed in battle, seventy-six died of wounds and disease, and 180 were sadly disabled, several of whom have since died in consequence. The soldiers were led by forty-eight officers of the grade of lieutenants and captains, including four surgeons. Several of these fell in battle or died in camp. Those who survived won more or less promotion. One who left home a captain returned a major, and one who left a second lieutenant returned a brevet brigadier-general. The town also insists on fair credit for having bred and educated A. B. Underwood (though sent from another locality), who left a captain, and returned a crippled hero, breveted a major-general, richly merited by deeds of valor and painful endurance. The amount of money appropriated and expended on account of the war, exclusive of State aid, was \$62,600, to which should be added \$14,832, contributed by private subscription; total, \$77,432. The amount paid by the town during the war, for State aid, and which was refunded, was \$96,135.62. Meantime the ladies of the town devotedly served the cause by assiduously providing sanitary stores, among which were 240 sheets, 77 pairs slippers, 222 pairs drawers, 885 bandage rolls, 448 shirts, 227 pairs woolen hose, 595 towels, 189 woolen undershirts, 447 handkerchiefs, 24 "boxes of delicacies," 225 napkins, 65 pillows for wounded limbs, &c., &c. And while their seniors were encountering the perils of actual war, their juniors at home formed and drilled a company of lads, numbering from sixty to seventy-five, between the ages of fourteen and eighteen years. It was well officered, handsomely uniformed, armed with light guns, and performed much escort duty on various public occasions, in this and the neighboring towns during the war. They were known as "The Milford Cadets."

Since the war the town has had two regular volunteer companies; viz., "The Mayhew Guards," designated as "Co. F, 10th Regt. Mass. Vol. Militia;" and, more recently, "Co. M, 6th Regt. Mass. Vol. Militia,"—both sprightly and creditable companies. "The Mayhew Guards" had a succession of five captains, one of whom became lieutenant-colonel of the regiment. The new company is taking an auspicious start and promises well.

"The Grand Army of the Republic" has a constituent Post here, designated as "Major E. F. Fletcher Post 22." It was organized in October, 1867, has a goodly membership, is efficiently conducted, commemorates faithfully the heroic services of its fellow-soldiers; decorates annually the graves of its fallen comrades, receives pecuniary encouragement from the town treasury, and is held in universal respect by the citizens.

In education and literary accomplishments Milford never made very high pretensions, yet is by no means "least among the thousands" of our New England Israel. At its incorporation in 1780, it had not a single school-house,

and mother Mendon herself but two on her whole domain. There were nominally four school districts, identical with those for highway work. Schools, such as they were, few, brief and poor, were kept in the L's of dwelling-houses, imperfect out-buildings, and other extemporized quarters. In the course of ten years the first generation of school-houses, to the number of six, were set up; probably, all but one or two, made out of old shops reconstructed. They were of very inferior size and cheerless accommodations. Under what form of social co-operation they were erected, neither record nor present tradition tells. After 1795, they began to be replaced by another generation of structures, erected according to a prescribed legal process and paid for by regular taxation. These were of an improved type, yet little akin to those of our times. The school districts passed through a long series of changes in number and boundaries until there were twelve. These were reduced to less than half a dozen, and finally entirely abolished in 1854. This radical change was preceded by the establishment of a high school which was opened in 1850, with cheering auspices, and has ever since been sustained to great general satisfaction. The site, edifice and furnishings cost \$6,795. The district school-houses, when passed over to the town, were appraised to the amount of \$6,591. So, in 1854, the town had invested in school-houses \$13,386. Improvements were thenceforth made in these school-houses and new ones built, till now there are some twenty in all, besides town-house rooms made use of for school purposes. These accommodate over forty schools. There are several large, handsome and commodious edifices in the list, but none exhibiting a vain display. Their present total appraisal stands at \$67,000.

School moneys have been derived chiefly from the following named sources. When the town was set off from Mendon it inherited one-third of a small school fund — the amount not ascertained, but of little account. Taxation has always been the main dependence. In 1780 the town raised \$3,333, but it was Continental money — poor trash. In 1781 the appropriation was \$66.67 in silver. Ten years later the sum was \$133.33. In 1805 it was \$300; in 1825, \$500; in 1845, \$1,200; in 1855, \$4,500; in 1865, \$10,000; in 1875, \$18,000. Meantime the number of scholars increased from an unrecorded small handful to over 2,000. After the legislature established the State School Fund in 1834, this town drew its annual share of dividends, which at one time ran up to over \$500. Small incidentals sometimes came in from other sources. In early times the winter schools were taught only by males, and the summer ones by females. Latterly, female teachers are largely in the majority in winter as well as summer, and greatly to the public advantage. Wages, board, fuel, &c., were formerly low in comparison with present prices. The old distribution of school money was per district, and unjustly arbitrary; the later more equitable, partly per district and partly per scholar; but it is now accommodated still more equitably to local wants, as practicably as the nature of the case admits.



As to the oversight of the schools and general management, it was at first rather casual, irregular and irresponsible. The town records mention no general school committee as chosen, till March meeting, 1795. Probably a few parents, the prudential committee and the clergyman took what little oversight the schools got down to that date. Afterwards a general committee was annually chosen, with perhaps two or three omissions, to act without pay in conjunction with the prudential committee of each school district. At length new laws enlarged their powers, and gave them moderate compensation. Since 1854, when the districts as corporations were abolished, the town's committee have constantly risen in authority and importance, till they almost equal the selectmen in official control. Recently the town has sanctioned their recommendation for the appointment of a superintendent of schools, on a salary of \$1,500 per annum. He has taken in hand most of the committee's executive duties, and the experiment has proved eminently successful. Since 1795 the town has been served by over one hundred and seven general school-committee individuals, for longer or shorter terms, and several of them for many successive years. Samuel Jones, Esq., served ten years; Pearley Hunt, Esq., nineteen years; Samuel Daniell, seventeen years; Dr. Gustavus D. Peck, eleven years; Isaac Davenport, Esq., fifteen years; Rev. David Long, twenty-three years, besides much previous clerical service; Leander Holbrook, Esq., seventeen years; George G. Parker, Esq., fourteen years; Herman H. Bowers, sixteen years; and Charles J. Thompson twelve years, being still in service. The present status of the public schools is prosperous and satisfactory. The town has a valuable library, established in 1858, under judicious regulations, which supplies admirably a great literary want. It contains 5,447 volumes, delivered out for the year ending Feb. 8, 1879, 36,606 books, and stands among the town's assets as valued at \$5,000.

It should be added to the foregoing that Milford has always been expending considerable sums of money in the way of educating her sons and daughters out of town, in colleges, academies and private seminaries. The number of regular college graduates, commencing in the days of the Easterly Precinct, is not large, numbering, perhaps, about thirty; but the number of undergraduates and partially liberally educated persons would make up a much larger list. Then, there have been numerous private schools in town from its incorporation to the present time. These have ranged in grade all the way up from primaries to academic and select seminaries capable of fitting students for college and the less exacting professions. At the present moment several excellent private schools are in successful operation, as they have been for years. One of these is a flourishing kindergarten, and the others are well-sustained schools of higher grade, taught by competent and accomplished female teachers. All these are mentioned justly, as showing the general interest in education among the people outside of valuable schools sustained by public appropriations.



The town has made a fair record, too, in respect to the maintenance of its poor, its provision for the public health and its protection against fire. In its younger days it shared the dread of pauperism which seemed general in all New England municipalities. It warned out all persons liable to become chargeable for maintenance to the extreme of legality. It stood out at law against maintaining paupers belonging to other towns, and triumphed in some memorable cases. And in supporting its own poor it pursued the parsimonious policy of its neighbors for awhile, vendueing them to those who would keep soul and body together at the lowest price. To its credit, however, it was among the first in its neighborhood to vote down that abominable custom. It did this in 1806, urged by Col. Ariel Bragg, who in early youth had tasted the bitter cup, and who was able to muster a sufficient following of sympathizers to make up a majority. But it did not rid itself of all concomitant abuses in pauper management till 1825. Then, by a strong vote, it decided to purchase a farm and open a well-regulated asylum for its poor. That experiment worked well, and after a few years of managerial experience the poor were not only economically provided for, but have had a comfortable home. The farm now consists of about one hundred and thirty acres, has an ample mansion-house, built in 1849 at a cost of \$3,562.34, and has the requisite barns, outbuildings and other conveniences, all in good order, which are set down among the town's assets as valued at \$1,000. For the year ending Feb. 11, 1879, the town expended on account of its poor, in and out of the asylum, \$11,539.23, and \$300 more in repairs on the farm buildings. The average number of poor in the asylum in any year has never exceeded thirty-nine, and in 1860 was only fourteen. In 1878 it was reported to be thirty-six. The immediate management of the farm and asylum has been confided to a superintendent and matron, who, with few exceptions, have been husband and wife. Of these there have been, thus far, twenty-one pairs. Most of these have been humane, judicious and exemplary persons. The present incumbents, who have been in position since April, 1869,—Sumner Harrington and wife,—are pre-eminently such; very kind-hearted, patient and discreet in their difficult office. The town had no officers distinctively styled Overseers of the Poor till 1826. Since then sixty individuals have served in that office one or more terms of a year, and several of them many years each. Amasa Leland served six years, Chester Clark six, Leonard Chapin nine, Henry Chapin six, Richard Carroll six, John Madden nine, Benjamin H. Montague eight, and Elias Whitney, who seems to be a fixed favorite, is still in the harness for the twentieth year.

The town has been carefully endeavoring to maintain wholesome sanitary regulations. Its Board of Health was instituted in 1859, and has been in successful operation ever since. It has issued, from year to year, in print, its methods and directions for the prevention of disease, the removal of causes dangerous to public health, and all necessary helps to general cleanliness. It

has had, for the most part, competent and efficient officials, who have annually reported to the town the results of their administration, and made such recommendations for future action as seemed to them necessary. For several recent years the town has made the selectmen its Board of Health.

In respect to provisions for the prevention and extinguishment of fires, the town, after getting fairly inducted into the business, has been wise and generous. Previous to 1831 the inhabitants had no fire-engine or special apparatus to meet the outbreak of this dangerous destroyer. Then a small tub-engine was procured by subscription, and manned by voluntary assistance. Thereafter followed in rapid succession the procurement of better and better engines. Then the town began to vote moderate encouragements in the form of appropriations, and to elect fire-wards, so called. A second engine and company soon took the field. Engine-houses were built. Then followed other companies, with various kinds of helpful apparatus. Then came, at length, in 1854, the organization of a proper fire department under a special act of the legislature, with all needful rules, regulations and official machinery. The results have been very salutary and satisfactory. Step by step this fire department has attained its present strength and efficiency. It is now ready to face the fiery enemy at a moment's warning with one hundred and sixty-seven men, five engines (two of them powerful steamers), a fine hook-and-ladder company, a "Wide-Awake" hose company, with 5,950 feet of hose, a fire-extinguisher company, seventeen good reservoirs, well distributed about town, and various other appliances to ensure victory. The cost of all these organized anti-fire forces may be tolerably understood by the annual appropriations made in their behalf. It will be sufficient to specify those of 1857, 1867 and 1879. In the first-named year the appropriation was \$3,222.03; in 1867 it was \$6,172.07; in 1879 it was \$6,065.96. Perhaps, however, these figures somewhat exceed the annual average. Since its organization the department has been commanded by forty-eight chief engineers for longer or shorter series of years. Several of these have served eight and ten years each, and one, Albert C. Withington, has served eighteen years. The institution is a costly one, but the duties of the firemen are arduous, perilous and responsible, and the citizens generally feel that they are none too well compensated and provided for out of the public treasury. The department is appreciated and respected. Its well-directed energies have quelled several dangerous conflagrations, and prevented, by prompt action in their incipient stages, a multitude of others.

In the matter of roads, streets, commons, cemeteries, &c., the town can give a good account of herself. She inherited from mother Mendon, in 1780, about fifty legally-laid roads, bridle-paths and ways of various title. But they were nearly all narrow, crooked, ill-graded and uncouth tracks. Her road material was generally of inferior quality, and the bottom rough. It has, therefore, been rather costly to repair, build anew, widen, straighten and



improve the highways. But the process of so doing has been pushed forward vigorously all through the now closing century of the town's corporate existence. Such old ways as could be dispensed with have, of course, been discontinued, but this could seldom be done without first opening new lines. Continual petitions came in year after year from citizens needing better accommodations, and far more costly requirements came in from the county authorities which could not be resisted or much delayed. The thoroughfares through town, from Mendon to Holliston, from its centre through North Purchase to Hopkinton by two routes, to Upton in a north-westerly direction, towards Bellingham and Rhode Island through South Milford, and towards Medway in an easterly direction, were formidable undertakings in their day, but they were necessary, and, anyhow, came up in such a form that they could not be shirked. Less important roads need not be mentioned. In 1843 the town had nearly fifty miles of road within its limits, by accurate measurement. Without any critical reckoning of subsequent additions in detail, it may be assumed that the present total is at least one hundred miles. And, extraordinary to this, the railroads must be considered. These are the branch of the Boston and Albany out from Framingham, opened July 1, 1848; the Milford and Woonsocket, incorporated in 1855, in the stock of which the town invested \$50,000; and the Hopkinton, more recently built, of whose stock and bonds the town owns \$15,000. Communication, internal and external, is now eminently good, though, doubtless, additional accommodations will continue to be called for and provided. In 1863 all the legally-accepted ways, higher and lower, were designated by name, and the nomenclature was sanctioned by the town. Most of them are named as streets, and number now considerably over one hundred.

The town has numerous commons of various dimensions. Most of the smaller ones are connected with school-houses. That of the high-school house is the largest and handsomest of these. The town-house common is not large enough for panegyric. It contains only one acre and a half. The first town house was built on it, of brick, in 1819, in the midst of much partisan excitement. It became too small, and its present respectable successor was erected in 1854, of wood chiefly, at the cost of \$15,000. It has spacious and numerous accommodations. The old one still stands in the background, and serves divers necessary purposes of public utility. A little more elbow-room on this common would add to its beauty, as well as convenience. But the town has a noble park to glory in. It contains about fifteen acres, belonged formerly to the Twitchell estate, was bought in 1863 for \$10,000, is eligibly situated, and has received a liberal outlay for improvement and ornamentation. It has a splendid future in prospect.

The town has four cemeteries under its control. 1. The ancient Burying-Ground of the Easterly Precinct, where "the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep," or did sleep, some of them without any stone inscription. This is quite



in the centre, and after the town's incorporation was several times enlarged. It has ceased to receive burials in its bosom, has been dismantled of its once formidable range of tombs, and the ashes of its dead with their memorials have been numerously removed to more cheerful resting-places. Some parts of it have been rudely dealt with in quest of gravel for the streets, and the more reverent citizens feel that it has been desecrated. What will finally become of its soil remains to be seen. 2. The South Milford "Burying-Ground." This was opened in 1801. It originally contained only sixty-six rods, purchased of or rather donated by Elijah Albee. This small area was more than doubled in 1836 by the purchase and annexation of half an acre. It has afforded very desirable accommodations to the bereaved in that quarter of the town, has been decently cared for, and presents a respectable array of monumental memorials. 3. The North Purchase "Graveyard." This was opened in 1849, the town having purchased two acres of Ellis Sumner, Esq., and provided for all the requisites of an unostentatious but creditable cemetery. Its silent inhabitants have been steadily increasing since its opening, and it exhibits a reputable sepulchral depository. 4. "Vernon Grove Cemetery." This was opened in 1859, and contains over twenty-one acres, purchased of Abel Albee for about \$1,700. It is situated nearly a mile south-east of the town common, and possesses most of the natural features and advantages held desirable in a modern cemetery. It has become the depository of many recent dead, and of the remains of hundreds removed from their original resting-places. A considerable portion of it has beenavenued, laid into lots and greatly beautified. It has numerous fine memorial stones, several admirable monuments (including that of the soldiers who fell in the late war), and all the display which good taste and proper economy dictate. In former times the town furnished hearses, grave-cloths and other paraphernalia, but these have all been superseded by professional undertakers, and it is deemed sufficient to provide receiving-tombs and a few substantial necessities.

The Hopedale Parish has a cemetery under its own control. It is of humble and modest pretensions. The Catholics of St. Mary's Church have a large one of their own, containing eight acres, on Cedar Street. There sleep already a host of forms whose mortal life began in the "Emerald Isle," as well as of those born on our soil; and their marble tablets, with the monument of Pastor Farrelly, surmounted by the cross, proclaim to the passer-by that they died in the bosom of their holy mother church.

But the "Pine Grove Cemetery" transcends all others in the town for scenic beauty, artificial embellishment and monumental display. It is owned by an association of proprietors belonging to Milford and the neighboring towns, who were incorporated in 1841. They have shown the inclination, ability and taste to provide a home for the remains of their loved ones which commands the admiration of all beholders. It is situated on the west side of Cedar Street, about two miles north-east of the town centre towards Hopkinton. It occupies

a wild and romantic site, between the ancient "North Cedar Swamp" and "Rocky Woods," which the forefathers little dreamed would ever be consecrated to such a use, but which, nevertheless, proves to have been happily selected. It is superintended with excellent judgment and care.

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### CHAPTER III.

CIVIL RECORD — LEGISLATIVE AND TOWN OFFICERS — POST-OFFICES — FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT — CORPORATIONS AND SOCIETIES — SOCIAL SPIRIT — DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

THE civil, political and financial annals of the town furnish some interesting facts and figures worthy of notice. It has been represented in all the State conventions assembled since 1780, to act on national and State constitutions, by its allowed number of delegates. It has sent to General Court fifty-eight representatives (some of them serving several years each), and five senators. It has been honored by one member of the Governor's Council, and one Presidential Elector. It has had lists of voters ranging all the way up from one hundred in its infancy to over two thousand in its maturity. Its meetings have been presided over by eighty-three different moderators, many of them acting on numerous occasions. It has been served by fourteen different town clerks, thirteen treasurers, one hundred and eighty-three selectmen, one hundred and eleven assessors, sixty overseers of the poor, and a proportionate number of minor town officers. A considerable minority of the principal officers were many times re-elected, and some through a long series of years. It has had about sixty different justices of the peace, often re-appointed. It had a Police Court established in 1854, which was subsequently abolished, then re-established, and finally superseded in 1872 by the Third District Court of Southern Worcester. These successive courts have had their proper judges, assistants and clerks. Meantime, the town has had its needed supply of deputy-sheriffs, policemen, &c.

The citizens had no post-office within their municipal limits till March 7, 1814, when one was established at South Milford. Another was established in the Centre, Feb. 10, 1823, and another at Hopedale May 13, 1861. These have had, in all, twenty-five different postmasters. The present incumbents are: H. B. Fisk at South Milford, George G. Pond in the Centre, and George Draper at Hopedale. The one in the Centre does a very large amount of business, but the others are lively establishments on a smaller scale. The population uses mail facilities to an extraordinary extent, besides patronizing liberally a telegraph office now for several years in operation.



The financial affairs of the town have gradually grown to a huge magnitude. The infantile valuation could not have exceeded \$150,000 as a guess estimate. It now stands, under a recent reduction, at \$4,519,227. It began without a single school-house, and now claims to have \$67,000 invested in some twenty such houses, many of them commodious and substantial edifices. In 1781 it raised \$67 for schooling; in 1878, for teaching, \$15,952.10, fuel, \$717.53, school incidentals, \$4,471.99, and repairs of school-houses, \$1,153.17; total, \$22,299.79. In 1781 it raised for highways \$300; in 1878 it expended for the same and kindred purposes \$9,183.28. Its early assets of municipal property were a mere trifle; they are now estimated at \$249,600. But some of its citizens rather regret that its indebtedness amounts to \$204,600. Its credit is, nevertheless, good, and nobody fears a financial collapse of its treasury. The hard times have shrunk its valuation about one-fifth since the panic of 1873, but there is a general hopefulness for the future.

Milford has numerous corporations and associations which must not be forgotten. They have various objects and characteristics, from strictly secular to strictly religious, as will be understood from their titles and a brief description. Milford National Bank, in Bank Block, Main Street, organized March, 1865; capital \$250,000; par value of shares \$100; president, Aaron C. Mayhew; cashier, Augustus Wheeler; teller, James E. Walker. Milford Savings Bank, Bank Block, Main Street; incorporated 1851; president, Orison Underwood; vice-presidents, A. C. Mayhew, Allen C. Fay and Obed Daniels; with nine trustees, and James E. Walker, treasurer. Home National Bank, Old Bank Building, Main Street, organized May, 1875; capital \$130,000; par value of shares \$100; president, Samuel Walker; vice-president, G. W. Johnson; cashier, N. B. Johnson. Milford and Woonsocket Railroad, incorporated in 1855, extends from Milford Centre to Bellingham, nearly four miles; depot and office on Central Street, near South Bow; authorized capital \$100,000, about \$80,000 paid in; president, George Draper; treasurer, Charles F. Claffin, with seven directors. Milford Gaslight Company, incorporated in 1854; capital \$80,000; president, Allen C. Fay; treasurer, B. E. Harris; superintendent, I. N. Davis, with eight directors. It has several miles of pipe and sends gas all the way to the village and the machine-shops of Hopedale. Worcester South-east Agricultural Society: This includes, of course, citizens of the neighboring towns. It was incorporated in 1860; annual meeting first Thursday in December; fair last Tuesday and Wednesday of September, at Charles River Riding Park, where the society has a spacious edifice, with commodious hall, &c. President, William Knowlton of Upton; vice-presidents, Stephen Mathewson of Milford, Newell Eames of Holliston, John Phipps of Hopkinton, F. Worcester of Grafton, and Anson Warren of Westborough; secretary, Charles G. Thompson of Milford; treasurer, Alexander T. Wilkin-son of Milford. Number of members 700. Milford Farmers' Club, organized 1859; incorporated 1870; fair held first and third Saturdays in every



month at Farmers' Exchange on the town park; officered by a president, secretary and treasurer. Horse-Thief Detecting Society, organized Dec. 21, 1795; composed of three hundred members, belonging to this and the neighboring towns; president, Julius R. George of Mendon; vice-president, Henry A. Aldrich of Mendon; secretary, Dr. John G. Metcalf, also of Mendon; treasurer, Charles F. Chapin of Milford; membership fee \$1; funds on hand \$4,081; and an ample pursuing committee in several towns. Thurler Medical Association, composed of medical gentlemen in Milford and the vicinity, who belong to the Massachusetts Medical Society; organized June 9, 1853; object, professional improvement; fund \$600, the income of which is devoted to the purchase of books; number of members about twenty; rooms 120 Main Street, meetings once a month; officers elected annually in October; president, Chas. E. Spring of Holliston; vice-president, George King of Franklin; secretary, J. Allen Fay of Milford; treasurer, John G. Metcalf of Mendon. Of Masonic bodies there are four; viz., Montgomery Lodge, chartered in 1797, formerly of Medway, and thence removed hither several years ago; Mt. Lebanon Royal Arch Chapter, chartered in 1824, also formerly of Medway and removed hither; Milford Commandery of Knights Templar, and the Masonic Mutual Relief Society. The Odd Fellows have two bodies in town, entitled Quinshipaug Encampment, No. 20, and Tisquantum Lodge, No. 46. Knights of Pythias have one body entitled, Bay State Lodge, No. 51, organized April 14, 1870. The temperance cause has had a long succession of organizations with various titles. At present it has the following named: Fidelity Lodge, No. 21; Independent Order of Good Templars; Elmwood Lodge, No. 129, do.; Catholic Temperance Association; Milford Temperance Reform Club, &c. There is a considerable body of Irish-American citizens in town, known as the 'Ancient Order of Hibernians, whose object is to commemorate and preserve Irish national unity. Of a more strictly religious character there are: The Milford Bible Society, organized in 1857; the Young Men's Christian Association, and several minor societies of various designations. Most, if not all, the above-named corporations, associations and organizations are in a flourishing condition. Several less public corporations and associative institutions are also prospering, but need not be named in this account.

What may be termed the social characteristics of Milford ought, perhaps, to receive some notice. Although the distinctions of race, rank and class exist, and with increasing definiteness, yet there is a predominant sociality and fraternity of feeling throughout the town. The population has, for the most part, always inclined to common humanity, equality, sympathy and friendly social intercourse. There has always been a general fondness for congenial and convivial gatherings and amusements. A "good time" never came amiss, and its repetition was never long delayed. In the olden days they had the huskings, quiltings, rural dances, play parties, games and sports of various kinds. Next came the traveling jugglers, slight-of-hand performers, caravans and other

showmen. Dramatic exhibitions and theatrical plays by home troupes, commenced as early as 1824, in the brick meeting-house. Balls of more fashionable style and importance came into vogue, and came to stay. And now scarcely a week passes without more or less of social entertainment, in the form of theatrical performance, musical concert, excursion, fair, levee, club-feast, base-ball, or some one of the thousand modern amusements. Even the churches, as well as moral reform societies, have gone into the practice of getting up various sorts of "good times" to raise funds, please their Sunday schools and increase their congregations. There are yet no theatres or opera-houses erected for such express purposes, but the town hall, Lyceum Hall, Washington Hall, Irving Hall, and others of less note, afford the necessary accommodations, and are well patronized. We have some staid and plain-living people, who think they can enjoy existence with a smaller spice of social amusement, and who are disposed to mind their own business in a more quiet way; but they are not in the majority, nor exactly in the fashion. Although there are some vicious amusements, and, doubtless, many abuses of innocent ones in town, which ought to be abated, its civil morality will average fairly with that of most other communities, even of some who claim to be much more Puritanical. It has no excess of the dangerously criminal classes, albeit we are not free from misdemeanors, and there is room for a vast improvement before the millenium.

Milford cannot boast of having given birth to many distinguished persons, widely known beyond its immediate and general vicinity. Among the few in whose eminence and fame it claims honorable patrimony, one has already been mentioned as its Revolutionary hero-martyr, — Gen. Alexander Scammell, of whom the town was bereaved in the second year of its corporate existence. He was a son of Dr. Samuel Leslie Scammell and Jane his wife, born in 1744, and left an orphan lad by the death of his father in 1753. His father commended Alexander, with an elder brother, to the educational oversight of Rev. Amariah Frost, to be fitted for college. Alexander graduated at Harvard in 1769; studied law with Gen. John Sullivan of New Hampshire; was appointed brigade-major of the New Hampshire militia, 1775; became colonel of the third New Hampshire battalion of Continental troops, 1776; commanded the third New Hampshire regiment, 1777, and was wounded in the battle at Saratoga, N. Y.; commanded the first New Hampshire regiment in 1780; and was about that time appointed adjutant-general. He is said to have been a great favorite of Washington, and very popular in the army. At the siege of Yorktown, while acting as field officer on the 30th September, 1781, and reconnoitring one of the enemy's redoubts, he was suddenly surprised and captured by a detachment of scouting cavalry. He then gracefully said: "Gentlemen, I am your prisoner"; whereupon a brutal Hessian gave him a mortal wound. He was conveyed to Williamsburg, Va., where he died of his wound, October 6th, ensuing, deeply lamented by all who knew him in camp, at home, and throughout the country.



Rev. Stephen Chapin, D. D., president of Columbian College, Washington City, D. C., is another distinguished native of this town. He was a son of Stephen and Rachel (Rawson) Chapin, born Nov. 4, 1778. In his seventh year he learned the alphabet in a neighborhood school, taught by his uncle, Adams Chapin. At nine years of age he experienced religion; at seventeen, united with the church; in 1804, graduated at Harvard University; studied theology under Dr. Emmons of Franklin; was ordained pastor of the Congregational Church in Hillsborough, N. H., June 19, 1805, and dismissed therefrom May 12, 1808. He was next installed over the Congregational Church at Mt. Vernon, N. H., Nov. 15, 1809, where he changed his views of baptism, from those of Congregationalism to those of the Baptists, and was thereupon dismissed. In 1819, he became pastor of the Baptist Church in North Yarmouth, Me. In 1822, Brown University conferred on him the degree of S. T. D., and the same year he was elected professor of sacred theology in Waterville College, Me., which office he filled till 1828. He was then called to the presidency of Columbian College, just established at Washington, D. C., where he remained until his death, Oct. 1, 1845, at the age of sixty-seven years. In 1809, he married Sarah Mosher of Hollis, N. H., who, with three sons and two daughters, survived him. He was held in very high estimation for piety and learning by all who knew him.

Rev. Levi Nelson was less distinguished, but regarded, especially in his own religious denomination, as a remarkable man. He was a son of Dea. Seth and Silence (Cheney) Nelson. He was born Aug. 8, 1789. He was educated partly at Brown University and partly at Williams College, but failed to graduate on account of ill-health. He studied theology with Dr. Emmons, who encouraged him to persevere in his aims at the ministry, and he was finally approbated to preach. After preaching in several places, as health permitted, he settled in Lisbon, Ct., where he was ordained Dec. 5, 1804. He is said to have preached fifty-seven hundred different sermons, several of which were published. He was a conscientious, devoted and industrious man in his calling, and so stanchly orthodox of the old school, that he bequeathed \$1,000 to his parish on the strict condition of their not settling as his successor a man embracing "the New Haven theology." He died in 1855, at the age of seventy-seven years, and in the fifty-second of his ministry.

Hon. Jonathan Thayer, a son of Elijah and Sarah (Robinson) Thayer, was born Jan. 27, 1779, was graduated at Brown University in 1803, paid some attention to legal studies, settled in Camden, Me., held a seat in the Governor's Council for many years, and was Judge of Probate for seven years. He married his wife in Wiscasset, Me., and had at least two children in Camden. He died there Sept. 20, 1853.

Hon. Ezra Hunt, a son of Daniel and Mary (Phillips) Hunt, was born April 7, 1790, graduated at Harvard University, 1815, excelled in the knowledge of mathematics and the exact sciences, was preceptor of Leicester Academy for



some time after his graduation, took charge of the academy in Pulaski, Tenn., in 1818, studied law while there under Judge William C. Carr, went into practice in Louisiana, Mo., and thence removed to St. Charles. Later he removed to Bowling Green in the same State, and pursued his profession there. In 1836, he was appointed Judge of the Circuit Court of that judicial district, and discharged his duties with fidelity, ability and to general satisfaction. He decided questions of law, but seldom or never addressed juries. He was chairman of the judiciary committee in the Convention called to revise the Constitution of Missouri, had one of the best libraries in the State, and was regarded not only as an excellent jurist, but as eminently accomplished in general literature. At the age of about forty years, he married a young wife, the eldest daughter of Judge Rufus Pettibone of St. Louis, Mo.; viz., Maria E. Pettibone, May 18, 1830. He died suddenly, while attending a session of his court at Troy, Lincoln Co., Mo., Sept. 19, 1860, aged seventy years.

Hon. Albert Hobart Nelson, son of Dr. John and Lucinda (Parkhurst) Nelson, was born March 12, 1812, removed early to Middlesex County, with his parents, graduated at Harvard University 1832, went into the legal profession with success, was raised to an honorable position on the bench, and finally, in 1855, to be chief justice of Suffolk Superior Court. He died in 1858, in the ripeness of his usefulness and honors.

William Clafin, LL. D., ex-governor of the Commonwealth, and since member of Congress from the eighth district, was reared in Milford. He was a son of Hon. Lee Clafin and Sarah (Adams), his wife, born March 6, 1818, was educated partly at Brown University, and partly in other seminaries, without a formal graduation, and received his degree of LL. D. from Harvard University in 1869. He removed in early manhood from his native town, first to Hopkinton and later to Newton, devoted himself successfully to business in the boot, shoe and leather line, won the confidence of his fellow-citizens and reached the gubernatorial chair in 1869. He retained his high position as chief magistrate of the State three years, and in more recent years has been twice elected by the eighth Congressional district to represent them in the National Congress. He is still in the vigor of life, active in public as well as business affairs, and deservedly held in high esteem by thousands of appreciative friends.

The town is proud of another Clafin, who has risen to eminence in commercial pursuits from a career commenced in his native vicinage—Horace B. Clafin—who may be reckoned among the merchant princes of New York City. He is a son of John Clafin, Esq., and Lydia (Mellen), his wife, born Dec. 18, 1811, respectably educated outside of the colleges, inspired by a genius for trade, commenced mercantile business here in 1832, soon removed to Worcester and established there a successful firm; went to New York in 1843, and at the head of a congenial copartnership opened a jobbing dry-goods establishment. It has had a wonderful growth, reached a mammoth importance, and

now commands universal admiration. The house of H. B. Claflin & Co. sways its sceptre over a vast sphere of commercial dependence, confidence and honor. Its head is full of vigorous brain, and its hands diligent in triumphant traffic.

Gen. Adin B. Underwood has already been mentioned in connection with the military record of his native town. He is a son of Gen. Orison Underwood and Hannah B. (Cheney) his wife, was born May 19, 1828, graduated at Brown University in 1849; studied law; practiced his profession awhile in Milford; removed to the vicinity of Boston; closed his office at the outbreak of the Rebellion to become a captain of Massachusetts Volunteers, and was mustered into service May 18, 1861. He performed valorous feats in Virginia, rose on his merits to the command of a regiment, was ordered to join the army near Chattanooga, Tenn., and fought in the memorable Battle of Lookout Mountain, which drove the rebels from one of their strongest holds. He was all but mortally wounded in that bloody conflict, laid at death's door for months, and sadly crippled for life. He was made a brigadier-general in acknowledgment of his dear-bought heroism, but was never again able to take the field. When sufficiently recovered to perform less perilous service, he was made president of an important court-martial in Washington, from which, however, he was excused and appointed surveyor of customs at Boston. On being discharged from the army he was breveted a major-general. He is still in the official harness at Boston, endures resolutely the life-long consequences of his wounds and wears his laurel-wreath with becoming grace.

Milford has other children in whose worth she takes just pride, and who perhaps ought to have their names inscribed on this roll of honor; but lack of space forbids. Brief reference can only be made to a few fathers of the town, who were most conspicuous in the conduct of its affairs during their several generations. Many others must remain unmentioned, though no less meritorious. During the first quarter century of the town's corporate existence, the following named were among its prominent actors; viz.,—Caleb Cheney, Sr., Samuel Jones, Esq., Adams Chapin, Esq., Capt. Sam'l Warren, Dr. Samuel L. Scammell, Col. Ichabod Thayer, Lieut. David Stearns, James Sumner, Esq., Lieut. Ephraim Chapin, &c. In the second quarter-century the stage presented Pearley Hunt, Esq., John Claflin, Jr., Esq., Newell Nelson, Esq., Col. Ariel Bragg, Col. Benjamin Godfrey and his son William, Col. Sullivan Sumner, Capt. Clark Ellis, Maj. Clark Sumner, Capt. Henry Nelson, Hon. Lee Claflin, &c. Since then, down to the present time, the following actors have been more or less conspicuous:—Hiram Hunt, Charles F. Chapin, Aaron Claflin, Aaron C. Mayhew, Sylvester Dean, Alfred Bragg, Andrew J. Sumner, James H. Barker, Edwin Battles, Winslow Battles, George W. Stacy, Dr. A. A. Cook, Isaac Davenport, Obed Daniels, John S. Scammell, Leander Holbrook, James R. Davis, Zibeon C. Field, Geo. B. Blake, Hermon H. Bowers, Thomas G. Kent, George G. Parker, George Draper, William F. Draper,



Lewis Fales, Henry E. Fales, and a host of others whom it is hardly worth while to specify in a category of mere names without designation of rank, title, office or service.

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## CHAPTER IV.

INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS INTERESTS — VALUABLE BUILDINGS — FACTORIES AND MILLS — NEWSPAPERS — MAP OF THE TOWN — DIRECTORIES — TOWN HISTORY.

THE present general status of the town in respect to its more important interests, activities, mechanical inventions, productive industries, &c., must close this sketch. There are few farms and homesteads in Milford that have come down in the line of family inheritance to the fourth generation—perhaps half a dozen. Real estate has been frequently changing owners from the era of first settlement to the present hour. The town seems to have been good both for emigration and immigration. There is nothing worth specification in these sentences concerning its agriculture. It is a manufacturing and mechanical community. In the statistics already given, enough has been said of its predominant manufacture, that of boots, shoes, &c. It will be understood that this business is more or less vigorously pursued by numerous individuals and copartnerships of employers, and a corresponding host of employés. Several other kinds of business establishments, important in their place, may also be passed over in present silence. There are some, however, which deserve special attention.

What we call Milford Centre is of course the principal locality both of population and business. Its factories, shops, blocks, &c., afford large accommodations. Of blocks, distinctively so styled, and kindred buildings, there are the following:—Arcade Block, Nos. 95 to 101 Main Street; Bank Block, Main Street; Bay State Block, Nos. 102 to 108 Main Street; Blunt's Block, corner Franklin Street; Central Building, No. 86 Main Street; Church Block, Nos. 43, 45, 47, 49 Main Street; Exchange Block, Main, corner Exchange Street; Gleason's Building, School, corner of Spruce Street; Grant Block, No. 174 Main Street; Hayward's Exchange, Nos. 137, 139, 141 Main Street; Irving Block, Nos. 143, 145, 147 Main Street; Jefferson Block, Nos. 90, 92, 94, 96 Main Street; Lincoln Block, School, corner of Pine Street; Mechanics' Block, Nos. 138, 140, 142 Main Street; Phoenix Building, Nos. 3, 5, 7 Main Street; Thayer's Block, Main Street; Union Block, Nos. 73, 75, 77, 79 Main Street; and Washington Block, Nos. 150, 152 Main Street.

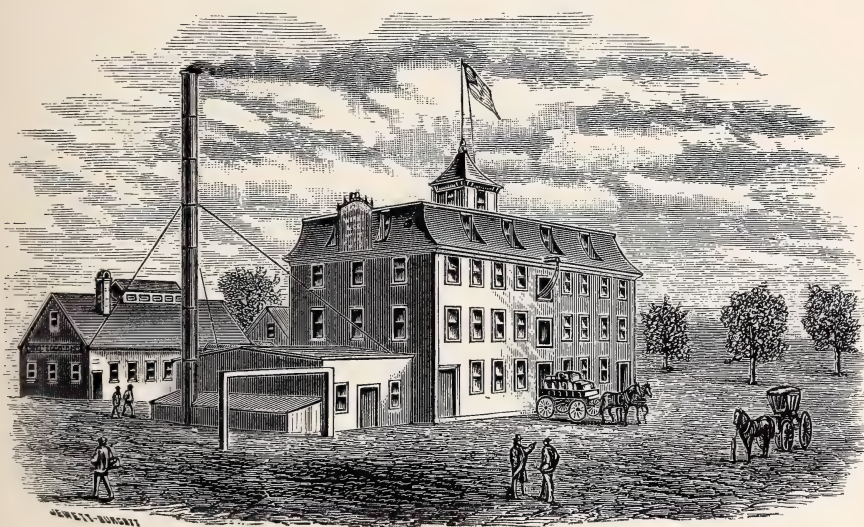
Among the most remarkable establishments in the Centre is that of Estabrook, Wires & Co. for the manufacture of their "clinchng screws," and vari-



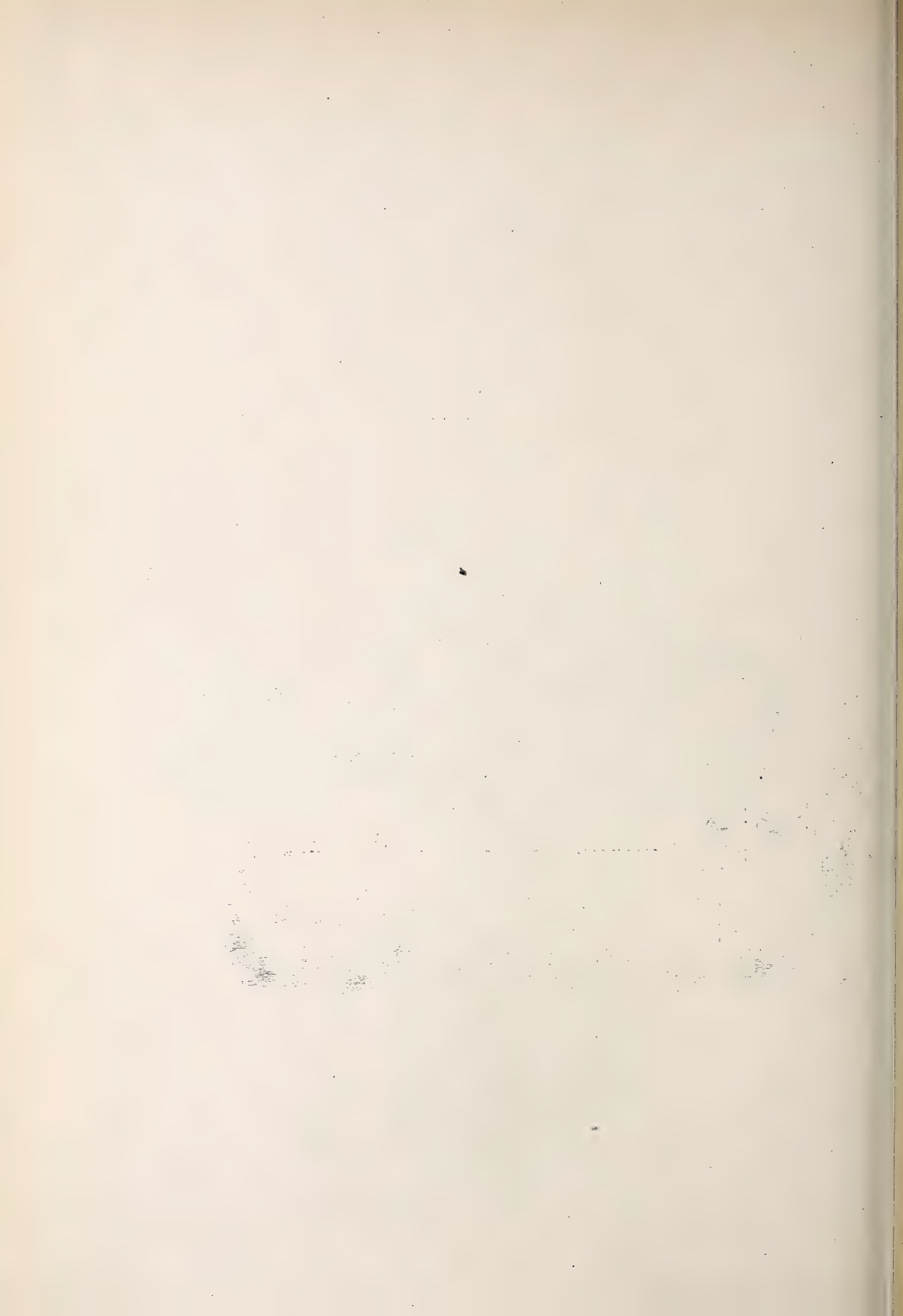
ous other useful articles. Competent judges have pronounced the whole unique and unrivalled in general and detail. Location, Spring Street, opposite Front Street. The design of this patent clinching screw is to fasten boot and shoe soles, which it does to perfection. These enterprising manufacturers invented and patented their screw some years ago, and for awhile executed their work chiefly by hand. But such was the demand created by its extraordinary merits as fast as known, that they soon applied their inventive genius to the production of the machinery necessary to more rapid execution. They perfected such machinery and can now exhibit to the admiration of beholders a series of automatic workers that not only demonstrate their now superior mechanical ingenuity, but enable them to fill promptly their constantly multiplying orders from all parts of the country. The usual average of each machine is one hundred and fifty screws per minute, with the capability of doubling that number if desired. The superior excellence of these screws has rendered their manufacture a triumphant success. Even the War Department of the United States, having thoroughly tested them, endorses and patronizes them. Besides this leading production of their establishment, Messrs. Estabrook & Wires turn out first-rate crimping-brakes, forms, sinks, tables, sticks and steels, seam-rubber legs, boot and shoe trees, turning-jacks, &c.; all in considerable quantities, and bearing the warranty stamp of their names. The driving force for their machinery is a steam-engine of thirty-five horse power; and all their buildings and appliances are in prime condition.

There is another rather notable establishment in the same neighborhood — Greene Brothers' heel-factory. It belongs to Messrs. George M. & Randall B. Greene. They manufacture boot and shoe heels, and are said to have the largest concern of this kind in the United States. These heels are made of upper-leather remnants, purchased wherever obtainable, and brought in immense quantities by railroad cars to their factory doors. They turn out 1,500,000 pairs of heels annually. By ingenious processes, they form these heels, extract from them all their greasy substance, and utilize, in one way or another, all the scrap leather that comes into their possession. The most worthless remains are used as fuel to feed their engines. They find an ample market in Boston, Lynn, and numerous boot and shoe towns for all the heels they can manufacture. In two recent months they sold to soap and candle makers no less than 112,000 pounds of their extracted grease — a mere incidental of their operations. They began business in 1867 with four employés, and have now one hundred.

But most remarkable in this category are the establishments at Hopedale. This bright and beautiful village is situated a mile and a half westerly from the town centre on Mill River, toward the frontier of Mendon. In its whole length and breadth it must have nearly one hundred dwelling-houses and six hundred inhabitants. It was founded in 1842 by the Hopedale Community, grew thriftilly till that community relinquished its unitary arrangements in 1856;



ESTABROOK, WIRES & CO'S FACTORY, MILFORD, MASS,





and still more thriftily from that time to the present. From the beginning its leading people have distinguished themselves more and more by mechanical genius and manufacturing enterprise. It has been a seminary of inventors, and may now, without extravagance, be called a miniature university of ingenious patent-lore. By invention and purchase, it can exhibit quite a museum of mechanical contrivances for the entertainment of the curious visitor. And its manufactures are correspondingly efficient and productive. It would require a considerable volume, elaborated by a master's hand, to do justice to the inventions, productions and business enterprise of this little village. They can only be indicated in this synoptical article. Here are four strong firms operating, besides their minor subsidiaries, all more or less connected in their pecuniary interests, and co-operating in their industrial results. These firms are: 1. George Draper & Sons, whose special province includes a host of valuable improvements in cotton and woolen machinery, such as temples, sawyer-spindles, Draper's filling-spinners, double spinning-rings, steps and bolsters, patent motions for looms, Thompson oil-cans, shuttle-guides, &c., &c. 2. The Hopedale Machine Company, manufacturers of improvements in cotton machinery, special machinists' tools, patent warpers, spoolers with patent steps and bolsters, &c., &c.; George Draper, president; William F. Draper, treasurer; Joseph B. Bancroft, superintendent. 3. Dutcher Temple Company, sole manufacturers of Dutcher's patent temples, Kayser's patent temples, Murkland's carpet temples, &c., &c.; George Draper, president; F. J. Dutcher, treasurer and secretary, and W. W. Dutcher, agent. 4. The Hopedale Furnace Company, whose business is to manufacture and furnish to order iron castings of all descriptions.

The Hopedale Machine Company occupies the most northerly of the water-privileges, and has a principal shop two hundred and twenty feet in length by sixty-six in width, and three stories in height. Its machinery is driven by a motor force, derived from a Leffel turbine-wheel, and, when scarcity of water requires it, by a steam-engine of fifty horse-power. The next privilege below is occupied by the Dutcher Temple Company and its adjuncts with ample buildings, water and steam power, and many ingenious contrivances (some of them wonderfully constructed) to facilitate its operations. The foundry, with all its appurtenances, stands closely adjacent on the west side of the canal, and the ring-shop only a few feet south of the temple-shop. Nearly a mile further south is another valuable privilege, with a capacious shop, chiefly devoted to the elaboration of the famous Sawyer spindle, owned by Dea. A. A. Westcott, and managed in connection with the interests of George Draper & Sons. The dams, ponds, canals, anti-fire apparatus, offices, supplementary shops, out-buildings and manifold conveniences up and down the river can be appreciated only by judicious observers.

A vast majority of the cotton-mills in the United States, and many woolen-mills, have adopted these Hopedale improvements to a greater or less extent,

and their proprietors are reaping therefrom a rich harvest of profits. Foremost among them are the temple, Sawyer spindle and the adjustable spinning-rings — three notable patents. The temples are in universal use in the United States, Mexico, South America, and, to a considerable extent, in Europe. Leading manufacturers have demonstrated to their satisfaction that the spindle yields an enormous saving in power, labor, cost, &c. The number of these spindles already introduced and in use is over 1,200,000. The rings, too, have proved a great success. The number of these furnished and in satisfactory use exceeds 1,500,000. But the multitude of less conspicuous articles sent forth from these Hopedale laboratories are distributed far and wide over the country, and roll up a formidable aggregate of mechanical production, usefulness and wealth. In good times all these establishments together employ nearly three hundred and fifty hands, meet a monthly pay-roll of \$12,000, and make aggregate sales to the amount of more than \$500,000 per annum. The different kinds of machines and appliances manufactured here, with and without patent securities, must number at least one hundred.

In closing this sketch it seems proper to mention a few facts concerning the ministrations of the printing-press to public intelligence in Milford and its general vicinity. The first printing-office opened in town was started by Ballou & Stacy in the winter of 1830-31, in William Godfrey's row of shops and sheds on the west side of the Parish Common. On the 1st of January, 1831, a weekly religious paper was issued from that office, entitled "The Independent Messenger." The office and paper were removed in the following spring to Mendon. In 1843 the Hopedale Community opened their printing-office at Hopedale, which executed job work, and issued a semi-monthly paper called "The Practical Christian." This was published till the year 1860, and then discontinued. Since then the office has issued numerous smaller publications in pamphlet and tract form, and done more or less job work. It is now owned and operated in the village by Bryan J. Butts. In 1846 George W. Stacy established his printing-office in the Centre, and, with his son, has had a successful run of business ever since. Besides the usual variety of job work, he has frequently issued pamphlets from his press, and public documents. He has long kept a book and stationery store in connection with his office. "The Milford Journal" was started in 1850 from a fresh printing establishment, and is now about completing its 29th year. It has passed through the publishing and editorial management of several successive owners, steadily increasing in power and influence down to the present time. Its present proprietors and editors are J. I. C. Cook, W. H. Cook and George G. Cook — the latter two sons of the first-named. The firm is styled Cook & Sons. They have an ample, well-furnished printing-office, and execute a large amount of business. There was at one time a short-lived competitor of the "Journal" establishment, with an office and paper. Since then it has had no rival, and flourished alone. It is published weekly at two dollars per annum.

The town has been surveyed by authority several times since its incorporation, and plans duly recorded. The first published map was elaborated by Newell Nelson in 1829, under the patronage of Pearley Hunt, Esq., who had some hundreds of copies lithographed. This was revised, improved and republished in 1843 by Isaac Davenport, Esq. One or two more recent maps have been executed and laid before the public. Another more accurate one is needed, and will probably be forthcoming.

Five directories have been published for the convenience of the inhabitants. The first was prepared and issued in 1856 by A. D. Sargeant; the second by C. C. Drew in 1869; the third by Greenough, Jones & Co. in 1872; the fourth by the same company in 1875; and the fifth by Greenough & Co. in 1878.

The town initiated measures and commenced making appropriations, two or three years ago, for the preparation of a suitable history, to be in readiness for publication on or before its centenary in April, 1880. It confided the work to the author of this sketch, which is a condensed abstract of its properly historic contents. It will contain a genealogical register, with numerous biographical notices, not hercin called for. It is in process of completion, and, if no untoward events intervene, will be ready for the press before next April. It will probably be a volume of eight hundred pages, fair-sized octavo, with more or less attractive illustrations. In hope that the foregoing will answer the reasonable expectations of all parties at present interested, it is respectfully submitted to the public.



## MILLBURY.

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BY GEORGE A. STOCKWELL, A M.

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## CHAPTER I.

## LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY — INCORPORATION AND GROWTH — ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

IN the fertile valley of the Blackstone, and on the adjacent hills, is the thriving town of Millbury, distant from Worcester six miles, and from Boston forty-five. Its northern boundary forms a part of the southern limit of Worcester; Auburn and Oxford are neighbors on the west; Sutton, its parent, lies on the south-east; and Grafton borders it on the east.

The natural scenery of Millbury is well diversified, and presents many picturesque features. The surface is irregular and hilly, but not so marked in this respect as that of adjoining towns. East and west, the land rises gradually from the banks of the Blackstone to eminences of considerable height. To one looking from the highlands of Worcester, the town of Millbury appears to lie in a cradle of hills, — to be shut in, east, west and south, by natural bulwarks of protection, and further progress of the Blackstone seems impossible.

No town has a more abundant or better improved water-supply, and to this is due the fact that Millbury, as a manufacturing village, has few equals in the county. The well-known and much-used Blackstone rises in the southwestern part of the town, in what is called Ramshorn Pond, and flows northerly through the territory of the adjoining town of Auburn into that of Worcester, where it takes an easterly course, and, again turning, is joined by Mill Brook, and flows southerly to the place of its birth, which it no sooner enters than it begins to contend with various turbines, and becomes an all-sufficient motor. On the western border of the town is Singletary Pond, covering about six hundred acres. The greater part of this is in Sutton, but its outlet, called Singletary stream, flows south-easterly through Millbury, and, before joining the Blackstone, furnishes power for several large mills. Dorothea Pond, in the eastern part of the town, is a valuable and attractive sheet of water. On the stream flowing from it, called Dorothea Pond Brook, which also joins the Blackstone, various mechanical pursuits are in progress.

The commercial centre of Millbury is on the left bank of the Blackstone, and is composed of Armory and Goodell villages, formerly so called. The streets are wide, and, for the greater part, regularly laid out and well shaded. Here are all the church edifices save one, high school, bank, post-office, stores, manufactories of different kinds, railway stations, and many handsome residences. One mile west of the centre is Bramanville, named in honor of Dr. Braman, an early settler, irregularly built on the rocks and in the steep places along the course of Singletary stream. The upper or western part was formerly called Singletary Village, from John Singletary, whose mill was the first in this part of the town; and the lower or eastern part Burbankville, for here Gen. Caleb Burbank built, owned and operated a large paper-mill. The rise and growth of this village are consequent upon the occupation of the different water-privileges on the Singletary. It contains twelve hundred inhabitants. The house of worship of the First Congregational Society is in this part of the town; also large manufactories of cotton and woolen fabrics, stores and a public house.

Further west, on the highlands, is West Millbury, early named, and now often called "Grass Hill," from the exceeding richness of the verdure. Before the town was settled, owners of cattle, living in the vicinity of Boston, came to this place early in the spring to burn over the cleared tracts, that there might be an increased growth of grass for their herds driven thither later in the season. There is a post-office here, and formerly the church-edifice of the West Millbury Congregational Society was in this village; also, earlier, various mechanical industries received the attention of the inhabitants, but, at the present day, the leading pursuit is agriculture, to the prosecution of which the lands hereabouts are well adapted. Park Hill in the eastern part of the town, and Highland Hill to the south of it, are eligible and commanding sights, and the dwellers thereon till the soil, and are rewarded by plentiful harvests.

The town of Millbury had its origin in the north parish of Sutton. In 1742, the inhabitants living in the northern part of Sutton petitioned the General Court, through Capt. Robert Goddard, Solomon Holman, and Jeremiah Buckman, to be erected into a separate precinct. The committee appointed by the General Court to visit Sutton and view the premises, reported in favor of the separation, and on Oct. 28, 1743, the report of the committee was concurred in by the Court, and the northern part of Sutton was known as the North Parish of that town. The first legal meeting of the inhabitants of this parish was held at the house of Richard Singletary, which stood near the outlet of Crooked, now Singletary Pond, on Dec. 26, 1743, of which meeting Capt. Timothy Carter was moderator, and, of the parish, Robert Goddard was chosen clerk. The subsequent meetings of the parish were held at the house of Singletary until May 30, 1746, when the house of worship, erected on what is now called the "Old Common," and which was designed to be the centre of the town, was so near completion that meetings of the parish, both religious and secular, could be held there.

On June 3, 1813, while the second war with England was in progress, and after much opposition and sectional strife, the North Parish of Sutton was incorporated as the town of Millbury, and vested with all the powers, privileges and immunities enjoyed by any town in the Commonwealth. The boundaries of the new town were coincident with those of the parish.

The call for the first town meeting was addressed to Aaron Pierce, justice of the peace, and was endorsed by Caleb Burbank, Samuel Bixbee, Azor Phelps, Jacob Chamberlain, Solomon Marble, Asa Waters, W. Jonathan Trask, Josiah S. Prentice, Simeon Waters, and Stephen Blanchard. In pursuance of this call, the inhabitants of Millbury assembled in town meeting for the first time, on July 1, 1818, and elected the following officers: Moderator, Azor Phelps; clerk, Aaron Pierce; selectmen, Asa Goodell, Azor Phelps, Solomon Marble, Reuben Barton, Jr., James Greenwood; treasurer, Samuel Waters; assessors, Aaron Pierce, Simeon Waters, Jonathan Grout; collector and constable, Alfred Hood; surveyors of highways, Amasa Wood, Curtis Searls, Jonathan Muzzy, Moses Brigham, Jonas Gale, Samuel Waters, Josiah S. Prentice, Josiah Brown, Joel Wesson; tything-man, Jonathan Richardson.

At the time Millbury took its place among the municipalities of the Commonwealth it contained about one hundred and sixty families, and a population of less than five hundred. At what is now the centre of the town there were, at its incorporation, only twelve or thirteen houses, seven or eight on the east side of the Blackstone, along the County Road, now the Main Street, and three or four on the west side, below or south of Singletary stream. The only mills on the Blackstone in operation then were the Old Armory and a grist-mill a few rods south of it. On Singletary stream there were manufactories of different kinds, of which an account will be given elsewhere.

During the ten years that followed incorporation the town changed very little, either with respect to the number of inhabitants or commercial enterprise. In 1824 the prospect of better communication with the seaboard by means of the Blackstone Canal caused the erection of new buildings and the making of improvements. The canal was opened to the public in Millbury in 1828, and the first boat passed through on October 6 of that year. Although much was expected of this new enterprise, little was realized, and the inhabitants of the town of Millbury, and possibly those of other towns who were financially interested in the canal scheme, had cause to wish that it had remained dormant in the minds of those who projected it.

The era of growth and increase, however, had begun, and with or without the aid of canals, the town of Millbury was destined to become what it has. The activity begun in 1824 was continued until 1830, when it received new impetus, and between that time and 1840, during which a branch of the Boston and Worcester Railroad was opened to the town, the greater number of the mills now in operation, and some that are not, were built. Again, in 1846, when the Providence and Worcester Railroad Company began operations,



greater energy was infused into the spirit of improvement and enterprise, and from that time to the present Millbury has gradually advanced until it has become one of the larger manufacturing communities in Worcester County.

As the ecclesiastical history of Millbury began prior to the date of its incorporation as a town, and as it was for several years thereafter connected with its civil history, its place is here.

On Dec. 13, 1744, twenty persons asked to be dismissed from the mother church in Sutton. This was granted, but as these persons did not within the year following form themselves into a distinct society, the Sutton church called them to an account, fearing that they were walking disorderly, and required them to renew their covenant. On Jan. 17, 1745, a meeting was held "to seek earnestly to God for direction in calling and settling a Gospel minister in the parish," and on March 16, 1747, a call was given James Wellman. It was voted to give him, "as an encouragement to settle among us, £500 in old tenor, as a settlement, and £250 of like tenor as a yearly salary." The call and terms met the approval and acceptance of Mr. Wellman. The complete organization of the church was not effected until Sept. 10, 1747, when, as the records of the Sutton church show, fifty-seven persons were dismissed to form the Second Church in Sutton, now the First Church in Millbury. The new society adopted the Cambridge Platform for its confession of faith, its covenant, and rules of church government. This platform admitted ruling elders as a distinct class of church officers. This church, however, was never Presbyterian. For many years it had its ruling elders, but has always adhered to the "pure and unmixed idea of a Congregational church, that equality and disciplinary power are inherent in its members." Mr. Wellman, the first pastor, was ordained on Oct. 7, 1747, and remained fourteen years. At the conclusion of his farewell address "he dismissed ye church with a blessing (not ye blessing whearwith Moses ye man of God blessed the children of Israel) but something like it." Mr. Wellman was considered as one well instructed in the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, and as having adorned, not forfeited his ministerial character.

The second pastor of this church, Ebenezer Chaplin, was ordained on Nov. 14, 1764. On Feb. 4, 1768, it was voted "to sing one of Dr. Watts' hymns at ye communion, if it would not be grievous to any of the bretheren." On Feb. 28, 1779, a vote was passed to the effect that all youth under the authority of parents and masters of the congregation should be catechised four times a year by the pastor.

The parish began to build its house of worship early in the year 1744, but it was not completed for several years. This edifice stood upon the "old common," called by some of the inhabitants "Mount Zion, whither the tribes went up to worship." The old common is a mile and a half north-west of the present business centre, and town affairs were transacted there until 1836. This church building had neither belfry nor steeple, and, from its resemblance

to a barn, was called the "Lord's Barn." The erection of a second church edifice was begun in 1802. Its dimensions were fifty by fifty-two feet, and its site was that of the former structure, which was moved a few rods and converted into a public house. The new edifice was dedicated on Nov. 27, 1804. As early as 1832 it was proposed to remove the church to Bramanville, where it now stands. This caused a division in the society, and the matter was left to the decision of referees, who decided that all would be benefited by its removal, but that "only those who favored the change should pay the expence." Accordingly, in the fall of 1835 the structure was demolished and rebuilt, and re-dedicated on Jan. 14, 1836. In 1866 the edifice was remodeled as to its interior, and dedicated again on March 11, 1866. Pastors: James Wellman, ordained on Oct. 7, 1747, dismissed on July 22, 1760; Ebenezer Chaplin, ordained on Nov. 14, 1764, dismissed on March 22, 1792; Joseph Goffe, ordained on Sept. 10, 1794, dismissed on Dec. 9, 1830; Osgood Herrick, ordained on Dec. 9, 1830, died on March 16, 1837; Nathaniel Beach, ordained on Nov. 22, 1837, dismissed on May 11, 1857; Edmund Y. Garrette, installed on Sept. 30, 1857, dismissed on Nov. 3, 1869. George A. Putnam, the present pastor, began his service on April 11, 1872.

The Second Congregational Church, an offspring of the first church, was organized on Aug. 23, 1827, as the "First Presbyterian Church in Millbury." At a church meeting held on July 5, 1827, a petition, signed by forty members of the mother church, was presented, asking to be dismissed for the purpose of forming a Presbyterian church in that part of the town known as Armory Village—the present centre. The petition was granted and the church formed. The Presbyterian polity was chosen to avoid the supposed difficulty of calling a council which would recommend the instituting of another Congregational church in the town. Seven years after, in 1834, this society changed its polity and name, and has since been known as the Second Congregational Church in Millbury. The house of worship was built in 1828. In 1862 a parsonage was secured, and occupied in September of the same year. Pastors: George W. Campbell, installed on Jan. 13, 1830, dismissed in 1833; William A. Larned, afterwards professor in Yale College, ordained on May 7, 1834, dismissed on Oct. 19, 1835; Samuel G. Buckingham, D. D., ordained on May 24, 1837, dismissed on May 3, 1847; Leverett Griggs, D. D., installed on Sept. 22, 1847, dismissed on Jan. 9, 1856; Lewis Jessup, installed on April 24, 1856, dismissed on March 29, 1860; Charles H. Peirce, installed on Oct. 22, 1862, died on Oct. 5, 1865; Stacy Fowler, installed on Dec. 6, 1866, dismissed in February, 1878; J. L. Ewell, the present pastor, was installed on April 16, 1878.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Millbury had its origin in 1822, when the first class was formed by William Archer, a local preacher from England, who dwelt here. This class was connected with the Northbridge and Milford circuit, and, although not permanent, was served and nourished by the clergy-

men who traveled on this circuit. In March, 1833, a parish organization was effected, and in 1840 the present house of worship was erected. Pastors: Merritt P. Alderman, 1833; Thomas W. Tucker, 1836; Wareham L. Campbell, 1837; William P. White, 1840; Lorenzo R. Thayer, 1841; John Roper, 1842; E. W. Jackson, 1843; Phineas Crandall, 1844; John F. Pettie, 1845; George W. Bates, 1847; Charles W. Ainsworth, 1848; William A. Braman, 1850; Willard Smith, 1852; John Rickets, 1854; Ichabod Marey, 1855; B. F. Green, M. D., 1857; Joseph Scott, 1859; Solomon Chapin, 1861; Daniel Atkins, 1862; N. H. Martin, 1864; Edwin S. Snow, 1866; T. B. Treadwell, 1869; S. A. Fuller, 1870; W. R. Tisdale, 1871; William A. Pentecost, A. O. Hamilton, W. A. Hatch. The present pastor is F. T. George.

The Baptist Church in Millbury was formed on Dec. 16, 1836, at the house of Abijah Gleason in West Millbury. For a year or more services were held "from house to house," and subsequently in the house of the West Millbury Congregational Society. In 1841 the Baptists removed to Armory Village, and for nearly twenty-five years occupied the Academy building. A house of worship was erected in 1864, and dedicated on March 22, 1865. Pastors: Hervey Fitts, 1841 to 1843; James Upham, 1843 to 1845; S. J. Bronson, 1846 to 1853; C. T. Tucker, 1854 to 1857; S. A. Thomas, 1858 to 1861; C. F. Nicholson, 1862 to 1864; Jonathan E. Brown, 1864 to 1868; C. A. Skinner, 1869 to 1870; S. J. Bronson, 1870 to 1874; G. B. Gow, 1874 to the present time.

The Congregational Church in West Millbury was organized on May 23, 1837. Some of the inhabitants, members of the First Church, living in the western part of the town, "displeased with the pulling down of the house of God, that had been consecrated to the service of the Redeemer's kingdom, thus rendering desolate the sacred spot where their fathers had worshipped," withdrew from the parent church, and, by a council called for the purpose, organized the West Millbury Congregational Society. Twenty-nine members were received from the older church, and sixteen on profession of faith. This church was under the ministerial care of Caleb B. Elliot for two years after organization, and on July 8, 1840, Sidney Holman, the first and last settled pastor, was installed, and remained till June 11, 1851. This society disbanded on Dec. 28, 1857.

A Catholic church was erected in Millbury in 1850. Prior to that, services were held in the town hall. James Fitton of Worcester was the first minister, and was succeeded by Matthew Gibson, A. L'Eveque, E. J. Sheridan, and J. J. Power. In 1869, this mission was made a separate parish, and M. J. Doherty, the present head, placed in charge.



## CHAPTER II.

## EARLY MANUFACTURES AND PRESENT INDUSTRIES — IMPROVEMENT OF PRIVILEGES ON THE BLACKSTONE AND SINGLETARY.

THE town of Millbury, as its name signifies, is a borough of mills. At its incorporation, some of the privileges on the Blackstone and Singletary were improved; but the founders of the town must have foreseen that the name would be more appropriate later in its history.

Horace Waters, the oldest manufacturer now living in Millbury, was born Aug. 28, 1799. Remaining at home during his minority, he assisted his father, Samuel Waters, in building the oldest factory now standing in town, save one, known as the Cordis Mills.\* In 1831, he became connected with the firm of Waters & Goodell in the manufacture of broadcloths. This firm was among the first to make broadcloths, and produced some of the finest goods made in the country under difficulties which are now happily unknown. Long journeys were necessary in order to purchase wool from sections where as yet the whistle of the locomotive or the click of the telegraph had never been heard, and where the only means of transportation was by horses and oxen. In those days, the dyer was obliged to cut his own woods, and the mechanic had not only to build his own machinery, but, like the Yankee boy, "make the machine which makes it." Hostile legislation in the year 1842 checked the production of this class of goods in this country, which has never been revived to any extent. In 1849, the firm of Waters & Goodell was dissolved, and in 1856 Mr. Waters became associated with the late Hon. Hosea Crane, forming the firm of Crane & Waters, of which he is now the senior partner. In this connection, he has had a successful business career of twenty-three years in the manufacture of knit-goods in the same mill formerly occupied by Waters & Goodell, in which place he has now been in active business nearly a half century, with little interruption. At different times during this long life, he has been directly or indirectly connected with many of the other mills in town, and has held many places of trust and responsibility, having well earned the respect and esteem in which he is held by his fellow-townsmen and business acquaintance.

The first mill in what is now the territory of Millbury was built on Singletary stream, near the outlet of Crooked Pond, now called Singletary Pond, on the site of the Wheeler Cotton Mills, by John Singletary, about the year 1720, who bought the land of Ebenezzer Daggett, to whom it was given on condition that he should "keep a grist-mill for the use of the town." A saw-mill was added, and the two were in operation many years after the Revolution.

\* The armory building of Asa Waters, now used as a woolen factory, was built in 1808, some ten or twelve years before the Cordis Mill, referred to.

On the site of these mills was erected a woolen-factory operated by the Singletary Manufacturing Company, and afterwards by Frank and Henry Tenney and Dea. Mills. They were succeeded by Randall & Holman, they by Jenks & Farnum, and they by Farnum & Wheeler. J. D. Wheeler then became sole owner, and in 1867 the present company was incorporated as the "Wheeler Cotton Mills." Four thousand spindles and sixty operatives are employed, and ninety-five thousand yards of sheeting a month are produced.

In this village, formerly called Singletary Village, was a scythe-shop owned by Samuel Marble, who operated a similar manufactory on the site of the present Brierly Mills. Afterwards, a woolen and cotton mill was built and operated by Woodard & Gorton. They were succeeded by Jonathan A. Pope, and he was followed by James Brierly & Co. Mr. Pope was again in possession, and after him came Emerson & Brierly. Crane & Waters are the present owners, but not operators. Yarn is now made in this mill, and one hundred and fifty thousand pounds per month are produced. Below, on the same stream, — the Singletary, — is a woolen-mill owned and operated by M. A. Lapham of Worcester. This mill occupies the site of the paper-mill of Abijah Burbank, which was in operation in 1777. Its erection was suggested by the following resolution passed in convention of the committees of correspondence and delegates from the towns in Worcester County : —

*"Resolved, That the erection of a paper-mill in this county would be of great public advantage, and, if any person or persons will undertake the erection of such a mill and the manufacture of paper, that it be recommended to the people of the county to encourage the undertaking by generous contributions and subscriptions."*

This convention was held on Aug. 9, 1774, and adjourned from time to time, holding its last meeting on May 31, 1775.

This was the first paper-mill in the county, and the fourth or fifth in Massachusetts. Its capacity was thirty reams a week, and the mill was the main dependence of printing-offices in Worcester County, particularly that of Isaiah Thomas in Worcester. Abijah Burbank was succeeded by his son, afterwards called Gen. Caleb Burbank, who improved the property and increased the production of the mill. At one time, Gen. Burbank was one of the more influential as well as one of the wealthier manufacturers in Worcester County. He published the various kinds of school-books then in use, Watts's and other hymn and tune books. The old paper-mill was in operation until 1864, when the property was sold to the present owner by F. H. Richmond, and new buildings erected, which were burned in 1876, and immediately rebuilt.

A short distance below the Lapham Mill is what is known as the Emerson Mill, built by Braman & Benedict. On the site of this mill was formerly a clothier's factory, where cloth made by hand was dressed, operated by Simeon Waters. Jonathan A. Pope was at one time interested in the present mill. After Pope came Smith & Pratt, and they were followed by Emerson & Brierly, the Braman Cotton Mill Company, and by the present owners, J. M.

Mason & Co. of Providence, R. I. This mill has not been in operation for several years.

Below the Emerson mill was formerly a linseed oil factory in active operation several years ago. Below the site of this is the large and handsome mill-structure of Nelson Walling. A machine-shop built and operated by John Leland in 1836 occupied the site of this mill. The property came into the possession of the Oxford Bank in 1850, and in 1854 the present owner purchased it. Enlargement and improvement have made this the best and largest mill on the Singletary stream. It contains seven sets of forty-eight inch cards; one hundred and fifteen operatives are employed, and the annual product of fancy cassimeres amounts to three hundred and twenty thousand yards.

Below the Walling manufactory is the hosiery-mill of Crane & Waters. The dam and a small mill on this site were built by the Longley Brothers in 1825, who, however, did not complete the work. Waters & Goodell were owners in 1831. In 1844, Horace Waters was added to the firm, and in 1849 Hosea Crane, and the firm-name is now Crane & Waters. Ten sets of cards are in use in this mill, one hundred and fifty workmen are employed, and goods valued at two hundred and fifty thousand dollars are produced annually. The mill has been much enlarged and improved.

Next below the last-named privilege is the Rhodes Mill, owned and operated by John Rhodes. This mill was built in 1828 by Samuel Waters, who, with others, supplied it with cotton machinery and made thread. Afterwards Jonathan A. Pope occupied it for a manufactory of print goods. A. J. Hovey was the next operator; and between 1845 and 1850, Rhodes & Merry were proprietors. Two thousand three hundred spindles are in use, thirty operatives are employed, and seventeen thousand pounds of cotton warp are produced monthly. The foregoing comprise all the privileges occupied on the Singletary stream. The old powder-mill and the gun factories, formerly on the Singletary, and the armory on the Blackstone will be noticed elsewhere.

The first mill-site on the Blackstone, in Millbury, is that of the Burling Mills, situated in the northern part of the town on the old Blackstone Canal. At the abandonment of the canal scheme, Asa Waters secured the privilege and built the dam. Michael Cougan built a part of the present mill in 1850, and for a short time was operator. H. H. Chamberlin was associated with Cougan and afterwards the firm-name was Chamberlin & Co. The property is now owned and operated by W. H. Harrington of Worcester. Previous to 1864 the mill contained four sets of machinery. Eight sets are now in operation, one hundred and fifty operatives are employed, and eighteen thousand yards of French beaver-cloth produced monthly.

South of the Burling Mills on the Blackstone are the sash and blind works of C. D. Morse. This privilege was founded by Asa Waters and has furnished power for various manufactories. The present owner and operator, C. D.



Morse, employs forty-five workmen, and the product amounts to one hundred thousand dollars annually.

Just below the confluence of the Singletary and Blackstone, near the centre of the town, on the site of the armory building, are the Atlanta Mills, owned and operated by William H. Harrington & Co. Four sets of machinery are in use, fifty operatives are employed, and the product is fifteen thousand yards of woolen cloth per month. Immediately below the Atlanta Mills are the Millbury cotton-mills, owned and operated by Benjamin Flagg. This mill was built in 1847, by Asa H. Waters & Co., and occupies the site of a grist-mill erected in about the year 1800. The present owner came into possession in 1867. The operatives in this mill number one hundred and twenty-five; thirty thousand yards of print cloths made per week.

Further down on the Blackstone is the Cordis Mill. The dam and canals were built by Asa Waters, who, in 1821, by deed, dated Nov. 26, conveyed the privilege to Asa, Orra and John Goodell. Near the present mill on the site of the dye-house was, previous to 1820, a rolling-mill, in which nails without heads were made.

The Goodells were known as the Goodell Manufacturing Company, and with the assistance of Brown & Tileston, erected a part of the present mill and made broadcloth. They were succeeded by the Brown Manufacturing Company. The Cordis Company was in possession till 1864, when John S. Wright, John H. Wright and Eben Wright became owners. In July, 1875, the present company was incorporated under the name of the "Cordis Mills." This mill is a fine brick structure and the largest in Millbury. It contains six thousand five hundred spindles; one hundred and thirty-five operatives are employed, and one hundred and thirty thousand yards of ticking are produced per month.

The next and last privilege on the Blackstone in Millbury is occupied by Peter Simpson's satinet-mill. This was built, 1830, by Shepard & Ridgeway. Park & Wright were owners at one time; as were also, later, Wood & Ray, and Merriam & Simpson. Forty-five hundred yards are made a month, and seventy-five operatives are employed.

On the stream from Dorothea Pond, is the edge-tool manufactory of Buck Brothers. This industry was established in the city of Worcester in 1853, and removed to Millbury in 1864. In 1868, the present factory building,—the finest structure in town,—was erected. The company make chisels and various other edge-tools, and have won a world-wide reputation. Fifty workmen are employed, and the annual product of this industry is valued at one hundred and twenty thousand dollars.

Other industries, less in extent, occupy the attention of many of the inhabitants. There is a smelting furnace, a carriage manufactory, one of boxes and one of whips. Some of the earlier settlers have continued to the present time, the business begun soon after the incorporation of the town. Nathaniel God-

dard began the manufacture of boots and shoes in 1819, has since been engaged in some branch of that industry, and with his son, Ira N. Goddard, still continues the business at or near the place where it was begun sixty years ago.

In 1837 the total products of the manufacture of cotton and woolen goods, guns, scythes, paper, boots and shoes, and other articles were valued at half a million dollars. In 1870 the value of the town's production was two and a half million dollars, exclusive of agriculture. Including the products of the latter, the total in 1875 was valued at about two million dollars.

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### CHAPTER III.

MANUFACTURE OF SMALL-ARMS — THOMAS BLANCHARD — EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS — CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS — LIBRARY AND TOWN HALL — THE WAR OF THE REBELLION — BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

THE manufacture of small-arms, such as muskets, rifles and pistols, was for many years a prominent and leading interest in Millbury. It was begun long before the national armories were projected, and some years even before Samuel Slater had started in this same valley of the Blackstone his famous cotton-spinning frame.

On the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, guns were at once of prime necessity. They could not be imported, and mechanics, especially gun-makers, were scarce. Among the first settlers of this town was a large family by the name of Waters, whose progenitor, Richard Waters, was by profession a gun-maker when he emigrated from England to Salem in 1632. Gun-making became hereditary in the family line. Two of his descendants in this town, Asa and Andrus, brothers, inherited the mechanical genius or skill requisite in this business. Guns were wrought out in that day, even in England, mostly if not wholly by hand power; a very laborious and expensive process. These brothers conceived the idea of bringing water-power to their aid, and built a gun-factory on the Singletary, upon a site next below the present mill of Crane & Waters. This is believed to be the first instance on record where water-power was brought to the aid of hand-power in the manufacture of guns. It is certainly true that gun-barrels were then welded in England entirely by hand, and so continued to be until the next generation of this family, when Asa Waters, 2d, invented a process of welding them under trip-hammers by motive-power.

These brothers discovered thus early — what is true to-day — that the best iron for gun-barrels lay in the mines of Salisbury, Conn. They bought it there in pigs; had it carted through the forests to a forge in Douglas, where it was converted into refined iron, and thence was carted to their factory in North

Sutton (now Millbury), where it was wrought into the various parts of the gun. It is a tradition that this factory received the patronage and aid of the State. It is certainly known that the State erected a large powder-mill on the site next above — which was the one referred to in the following resolve: —

“MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL, Oct. 18, 1776. — Resolved, That the *further* sum of two hundred pounds be paid out of the treasury of the State to carry on the building of the powder-mill at Sutton.”

This mill was run by water-power, and was put in charge of Asa Waters, who was often heard to say that there was hardly a barn in Worcester County under which he had not bent his back to scrape up saltpetre.

After the war was over, the factory was converted into a scythe-shop, and the powder-mill sold at auction.

In 1808 Congress having established two public armories for the nation, one at Springfield and one at Harper's Ferry, proceeded to establish six “private armories to furnish arms to the separate States.”

They enacted a standing law requiring the annual payment from the United States Treasury of \$200,000 for this purpose. The war department selected six of the most distinguished mechanics for this business, as follows: Asa Waters of Sutton (now Millbury), Lemuel Pomroy of Pittsfield, North & Starr of Middletown, Conn., Eli Whitney of New Haven, and Derringer of Philadelphia, Pa., and issued to them contracts for a term of years, and renewed them from time to time.

In that same year of 1808, Asa Waters, 2d, and Elijah, his brother, built upon the Blackstone, it being the first privilege below the mouth of the Single-tary, and having greater power, the armory building, which still remains there, and gave to the village its name. It was in active operation during the war with England in 1812, and its business largely increased by the manufacture of scythes, saw-mill saws, bar-iron, cast-steel, and various articles which could not be imported.

Deacon Elijah Waters died in 1814, much lamented. He left a large family of children, among whom was the ingenious inventor and eminent expert in patent cases, Hervey Waters of Boston.

Asa Waters continued to prosecute the business until his death in 1841, when he left an unexpired contract of four years to run.

The war department was liberal in its contracts to him in consideration of the various improvements he introduced, among which was a process for welding the gun-barrel by motive-power instead of hand-power, doing the work much quicker, cheaper and better. It was adopted in all the armories in this country, and by many in Europe, and has been in continued use since. His patent is dated Oct. 25, 1817, and his claim to originality was never disputed. Its worth to the country has probably been far greater than the whole amount paid him on his contracts.



The English method of grinding down the barrels before a revolving stone was found to leave the metal of unequal thickness around the calibre, and this made them liable to explode. Various inventions were made by the contractors to turn them in a lathe. Mr. Waters invented one (patented Dec. 19, 1818) in which he succeeded so far as the barrel was round, but to turn the irregular shape of the butt, baffled all his efforts, and the efforts of the most ingenious mechanics in all the armories as well.

At length, in sheer desperation, having heard of a young man living in a border farming-district who had exhibited some genius for mechanics, he sent for him to come to his armory. When he came he seemed a stranger to all present, appeared diffident, had a stammering tongue, and little was expected of him. Glancing his eye over the machine, and learning what was wanted, he very soon suggested an additional, very simple, but wholly original cam motion, which relieved the difficulty at once, and proved a perfect success. It was adopted at once in all the armories, has been in use ever since, and, as it saves fully a half dollar on every gun, some estimate may be formed of its value to the country. This verdant youth, then called "Stammering Thom," was none other than the now-renowned Thomas Blanchard, whose inventive genius has rarely been surpassed in this or any other age. It was then and there, as he afterwards said, that the idea of his world-renowned machine for turning irregular forms, such as gun-stocks, shoe-last, spokes, tackle-blocks, ox-yokes, &c., *ad infinitum*, first flashed through his mind. The germ of the latter lay in the former, and both had their birth in the armory of Mr. Waters, and, though he made no claims whatever to either invention, he might justly claim that he was the cause or occasion of their being brought out.

The private armories having been publicly and repeatedly recognized by the secretaries of war from John C. Calhoun down, as a part of the United States force for the supply of arms, the owners regarded them as permanent establishments, and invested largely in tools and machinery, which for any other purpose would be nearly worthless. In 1845, when the contracts of Asa Waters and others expired, the whole system was broken up, without notice or warning, and the business brought to a sudden and final termination. No poor tenant could be ejected for non-payment of rent with so little ceremony. Not only the contractors suffered severely, but their workmen, who had become experts on certain parts, knew no other trade, and had settled down in comfortable homes around the armories. This was a leading interest in Millbury, and its destruction was a severe blow to the prosperity of the town. That the contractors had no undue advantage over other mechanic pursuits, will be obvious from the fact that the prices paid them were limited to the *actual cost* of making similar arms at the national armories. The reasons given were that the mechanics in those armories, being paid by the day, had no motive to invent labor-saving machinery, while the contractors would be compelled to make them to secure their profits.

Necessity is the mother of invention, and the wisdom of this policy was abundantly proved by experience. While very few inventions of much importance were ever made at the national armories, the private armories were wonderfully prolific in them. A few have been alluded to. Of the great multitude made, space will allow the mention of only one more, the milling-machine. This machine, with cast-steel cutters fitted for plain or any irregular surfaces required, has nearly superseded the old-fashioned and expensive process of hand-filing. It was first brought into notice in the private armories at Middletown. Now it is to be found in all our machine-shops, and hand-filing, *as a trade*, formerly so common, has become nearly obsolete.

The cause or motive for the discontinuance of these armories was for a long time unknown, although the direct agent in the affair was known to be Gen. George Talcott of the Ordnance Department. Some years after, this officer was arraigned before a court-martial for some malfeasance in no ways connected with these armories. In the trial evidence was brought out that he was the owner of a large iron foundry in Richmond, Va., devoted to making cannon-balls for the United States; that it was in charge of his nephew, to whom contracts were issued from time to time upon most favorable terms; that Talcott had become very rich, and was living in the style of an Eastern nabob. The mystery of the discontinuance of the private armories was now revealed. The moneys intended for their support had found their outlet chiefly through this channel. Gen. Winfield Scott was judge-advocate, and, with his high sense of honor, was greatly shocked that a government official, so high in position, and a graduate of West Point, should be guilty of such corrupt embezzlement. His sentence was accordingly severe; viz., that said George Talcott should be removed from the office of Chief of Ordnance, be deprived of his commission of brigadier-general, and his name erased from the roll of army officers.

The surviving contractors had thus the satisfaction of seeing the author of their great wrongs brought to condign punishment, but not of having their business reinstated. The system had been broken up, and most of the armories converted to other pursuits.\*

Improvements and organizations of various kinds upon which the welfare of a people depends, have been made and formed to keep pace with the commercial growth. The first school was established near the Cordis Mills. This was divided, and a school opened on the Worcester Road, and another on the Boston Road. Not long after there was a school on Park Hill, and subsequently one near the centre of the town, on the east side of the Blackstone. In 1832 the Academy Building, so called, was built north of the centre of Armory Village, on land given for the purpose by Asa Waters, on condition that the site should always be occupied by buildings devoted to educational purposes. The academy was established by a stock company, and designed

\* For the history thus far given in this chapter the author acknowledges the kindness of Col. Asa H. Waters.



for a "ladies' academy." Both sexes, however, were afterwards admitted, but a very high success was never, perhaps, attained, and in 1851 the property was purchased by the town, and a high school established, which has been in successful operation since. The public schools of Millbury now consist of one high school at the centre, and sixteen common schools in different parts of the town, under the care of a committee of six members. The common schools are divided into graded and mixed schools. There are mixed schools in the Haywood district, at the Burling Mills and on the old common; graded schools are in Bramanville, and at the Centre or Armory Village, divided into a sub-primary, primary, intermediate and grammar schools; on Providence Street, in the eastern part of the town, are sub-primary, primary and intermediate; and in West Millbury intermediate and grammar schools. The course of study in the high school requires four years, and is divided into English and classical. The latter is intended to prepare pupils for college. The high school gives diplomas. The appropriation for schools in 1879 was \$7,000, and the school property is valued at \$30,000. The schools are provided with apparatus for the use of those pursuing philosophical and scientific studies.

The Millbury Free Public Library was established in 1864. The board of trustees consists of three members, chosen to serve three years, together with the chairman of the school committee and the principal of the high school. The library is composed of books belonging to an agricultural society long since disbanded, and of those given by the Social Friends, an organization connected with the academy. In 1864 this society offered its library of about six hundred volumes to the town "for the purpose of founding a free public library, on condition that the town will accept it, and make suitable provision for its care and increase." The offer was accepted, and in 1865 the town took charge of the library and made appropriations for its support. The dog-fund has been annually voted to maintain it. The library has three thousand two hundred volumes. In 1872 Deacon Leonard Dwinell bequeathed the library \$100.

Until 1836 town meetings were held on the old common; after that time, till 1851, at Bramanville. When the town bought the academy, meetings were held in it until 1879. In 1873 the town began the erection of a new town hall, the cost of which, including lot, was \$32,500. It stands at the intersection of South Main with Elm Street, in the heart of Armory Village. The material is brick, with sandstone trimmings. A hall in the upper story has a seating capacity of one thousand. The building contains, also, offices for town officials, a reading-room and the public library.

The "Olive Branch" Lodge of Masons of Millbury was organized on May 1, 1797, by Masons living in Sutton and Oxford, and the meetings were held in these towns alternately. The charter was granted on Sept. 14, 1797, and bears the names of Paul Revere, grand master, and Isaiah Thomas, senior grand warden. In 1816 the home of this lodge was in Sutton, where it remained till 1860, when it was removed to Millbury. This lodge is the



parent of similar organizations in Oxford, Webster and Grafton. Its members number about one hundred.

Blackstone Lodge, No. 18, of the Independent Order of Good Templars, was organized in Millbury on March 18, 1864, with a membership of thirteen. The total number of members is four hundred and more, and its number in 1879 was about one hundred and fifty.

The Millbury Guards, a company of the tenth regiment, State militia, is composed entirely of citizens of the town.

It is claimed that the first lyceum, the parent of the present system, originated in Millbury.\* It was composed of residents of the town, who lectured before their townsmen on philosophical and scientific subjects. The exact date of the formation of this society is not known, but it is believed to be about 1820. It is also true that John B. Gough's lecture system had its origin here, for his first lecture was delivered in Millbury. And it is also claimed that the first temperance society was formed in Millbury. According to tradition and the oldest inhabitant, a society was organized many years ago for the promotion of temperance; total abstinence was then unknown. The members of this society met on Saturday evenings to render an account of their drinking during the week. If a member had been intemperate he was put upon an allowance for the week to come. At one meeting a member declared that he had abstained from the use of liquors since the last meeting, and, moreover, should not drink again. His veracity was questioned in regard to the past, and he was considered insane with respect to the future; for it was then thought impossible for any one to exist, much less thrive, without his thrice-daily dram. Notwithstanding, or possibly in consequence of the strict watch kept of the movements of this total abstainer, his declaration was made good until his death.

The Millbury National Bank was founded by Asa Waters, and incorporated as a State bank of discount and deposit in 1825, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars. The change from State to national bank was made in 1864. The present capital is two hundred thousand dollars. The first board of directors consisted of Asa Waters, Simon Farnsworth, Caleb Burbank, William M. Benedict and Elijah Waters of Millbury, Jonas L. Sibley of Sutton, Samuel Wood of Grafton, Sylvanus Holbrook of Northbridge and Austin Denny of Worcester. The following have been presidents and cashiers in the order given:—Presidents: Asa Waters, Simon Farnsworth, Asa H. Waters, Simon Farnsworth, Jonathan Warren, Hosea Crane. Cashiers: Lewis Mills, William Whittlesey, R. B. Chapman, Jonathan Cary, John Prentice, Joseph S. Farnum,

\* Many towns and cities now claim this honor. Millbury has to support her claim, a public statement of Rev. I. Holbrook, who devoted many years to giving lectures upon astronomy before the lyceums throughout the country, and whose labors in this field are still remembered with gratitude by many. In his last course he said he had made it a matter of special inquiry in his travels to find out where the first lyceum originated, and he had become convinced it was in Millbury, and about the year 1820.

David Atwood, F. C. Miles, Amos Armsby. This bank was robbed, in 1842, of twenty-two thousand dollars, but the money was found and the robbers punished.

The Millbury Savings Bank was incorporated in 1854, through the influence of David Atwood, who has been treasurer from that time until the present, with the exception of two months, when Frank C. Miles held the office. The following have been presidents:—Jonathan A. Pope, Clough R. Miles, Thomas J. Harrington, Horace Armsby, William R. Hill.

A post-office was established in Armory Village about 1818, and Simon Farnsworth appointed postmaster. Other postmasters were appointed in this order:—Jonathan Grout, Asa H. Waters, Daniel J. Paul, Simon Dudley, William Fenner, T. W. Childs, Simon Farnsworth, Jr., and Roland E. Bowen.

During the war of Rebellion the town of Millbury put three hundred and forty-six men in the field, twenty-six over and above all demands; raised for war purposes, thirty-five thousand nine hundred and thirty dollars and seventy-four cents; and paid State aid to the amount of nineteen thousand six hundred and seventy-six dollars and fifty-six cents.

On May 7, 1861, at the first meeting held to consider war measures, a committee of seven was appointed "to furnish such persons as shall enlist in the military service in that town with anything which in the opinion of the committee may be necessary for their comfort, with power to draw money from the treasury." In September the town voted to raise two thousand five hundred dollars to defray expenses already incurred in recruiting volunteers, and to aid those who enlisted thereafter. The selectmen were directed to continue supplying the families of volunteers at their discretion.

On March 17, 1862, it was voted to appropriate two thousand five hundred dollars to aid families of volunteers; on July 17, a bounty of one hundred dollars to each volunteer who should enlist, be mustered into the service, and be accredited to the town's quota; also voted to pay one hundred dollars in addition to that already voted to those men who should enlist between August 13th and 15th, inclusive, to fill the quota of the town in the first call of the President for three hundred thousand men; also voted to give a bounty of one hundred and fifty dollars to each volunteer for nine months, to be paid when mustered into the service of the United States; also the treasurer was authorized to borrow money.

In March, 1863, the town treasurer was authorized to borrow money to pay aid to families of volunteers, and the selectmen were directed to assist such families, "as they shall think best for the treasury of the town." During this year many meetings were held to encourage enlistments, and money was raised by subscription to pay bounties.

On March 30, 1864, the town voted to raise four thousand four hundred dollars to refund money advanced by citizens to pay bounties; also voted to give a

bounty of one hundred and twenty-five dollars to each volunteer who should enlist and be accredited to the quota of the town. On June 22, the same bounty was offered. In 1865, the town again voted to raise money to reimburse those who had assisted in paying bounties.

The following lost their lives in the service of the United States:—Henry Barton, Charles Burr, James J. Colby, Patrick Doherty, William W. Dane, Lewis Dover, Reuben Dyson, John S. Emerson, George W. Emerson, Edward K. Harrington, Elisha S. Livermore, Andrew J. Lavery, Jeremiah Moynihan, Edward H. Moore, Mitchel W. Paul, George G. Phillips, Daniel G. Pitts, George H. Powers, Lucius Parodis, Francis C. Pope, George A. Ryan, Rufus H. Stone, James S. Slocumb, William H. Smith, Franklin Varney, Edwin D. Waters, Robert Wilson, Truman B. Waters, Nelson Sabin, John B. Dunn, Edward C. Gleason, Robert Kelley.

In 1853, Asa H. Waters was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

Calvin Willard, Hosea Crane and Henry L. Bancroft have been members of the State Senate.

The first representative to the General Court from Millbury was Asa Goodell, elected May 2, 1814, and again in the following year. He was followed by Amasa Braman in 1816; Caleb Burbank, 1819; Asa Waters, 1823–4; Elias Forbes, 1827–8; Aaron Pierce and Amasa Hall, 1829; Elias Forbes and Simeon Waters, 1830; Simeon Waters and Asa Waters, 1831; William Benedict and Elijah Waters, 1832; Amasa Wood and Henry Mills, 1833; Amasa Wood and Joseph Griggs, 1834; Joseph Griggs and Lyman Goodell 1835; Lyman Goodell and Aaron Trask, 1836; Aaron Trask and Job Gorton, 1837; Job Gorton and Charles Hale 1838; Charles Hale and Cyrus Faulkner, 1839; Joseph Robbins and Ezra Lovell, 1842; Calvin Willard, 1844; Benjamin Flagg, 1845; Asa H. Waters, 1848–9; Orville E. Thompson, 1850–51; N. P. Smith, 1854; Joseph Robbins, 1855–6; Hosea Crane, 1858; Horace Armsby, 1860–61; Leonard Spaulding, 1862; Henry E. Rockwell, 1866; Silas Dunton, 1867; Henry L. Bancroft, 1869; Irvin B. Sayles, 1871; C. D. Morse, 1872; David Atwood, 1874; George A. Flagg, 1876.

The following statistics will be interesting:—Population, 1820, 926; 1835, 2,153; 1850, 3,091; 1860, 3,296; 1870, 4,400. In 1875, 4,529; families, 940; dwellings, 578; polls, 1,084; voters, 686; farms, 106; acres cultivated, 2,257; total acreage in farms, 6,965; value of farm lands, \$596,978; value of products of agriculture, \$118,401; horses, 158; cows, 348; sheep, 9; employed in manufactures, 1,102; value of products of manufactures, \$1,937,797; value of personal property, \$771,485; value of real estate, \$1,746,633; total valuation, \$2,518,118; rate of taxation, \$15.25 per \$1,000.



# NEW BRAINTREE.

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BY GEORGE K. TUFTS, ESQ.

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## CHAPTER I.

SITUATION AND NATURAL FEATURES — FIRST CONDITION — INDIAN REMINISCENCES — EARLY RECORDS — POLITICAL HABITS — MEETING-HOUSE — FIRST MINISTER — SCHOOL-HOUSES AND "SQUADRONS" — SPIRIT IN THE REVOLUTION — SHAYS REBELLION — WAR OF 1812 — IMPROVEMENTS — REBELLION — BOUNTIES AND ENLISTMENTS — PUBLIC MEN.

NEW BRAINTREE is nearly in shape of an isosceles triangle, with sides of six miles and base of nine; bounded by Oakham and Barre on the north-east side, Hardwick on the north-west, and West Brookfield and North Brookfield on its base or southerly line. It contains twenty-one square miles, lying distant from Worcester seventeen miles west. Its surface is hilly and finely adapted to grazing, and finds its highest elevation in Tufts Hill. Its first recorded valuation was £2,454, when it had 217 polls and 272 head of cattle and horses. Its rate of taxation was then tenpence per pound, and one man only — Henry Penniman — was taxed for money at interest, to wit, £150. Its highest valuation was in 1871, being \$590,430; number of polls, 166; number of heads of stock, 1,340. Its highest population was in 1790, when it was nine hundred and forty persons.

Nearly one-half of the town consisted of a gore of land lying between Rutland and Hardwick (formerly Lamb's Town), and was granted by the General Court to certain individuals of Braintree, and called Braintree Farms. This tract, with a portion of Hardwick and Brookfield, was incorporated into a District, Jan. 31, 1751, and received the name of New Braintree. About one and a half miles in a north-west direction from the centre and on the flats of the Winnimisset the Indians had formerly a settlement of considerable importance. Here Mrs. Howard, who was taken captive at Lancaster in 1679, was brought with her two children, and one of the latter was killed by the Indians. On the hill half a mile east of the Winnimisset there is now a small stone monument, which, as tradition affirms, marks its grave. A little south of the Indian

village twelve men, agents on their way to treat for peace with the Indians, were slain by them in ambush, Aug. 2, 1675.

Capt. Eleazer Warner, the first white male child born in the district, and for many years after its formation conspicuous in local matters, through his skill and success in the struggles with the Indians, had brought upon himself their lasting enmity, which peace could not erase. One day, some time after the war was over, an Indian called at the house of Mr. Rice of Hardwick, and inquired the way to Mr. Warner's house. He was directed by the common road. After he had gone, Mr. Rice, suspecting the object of his visit, despatched a messenger by a blazed path through the forest to apprise Mr. Warner of his danger. Mr. Warner quietly took down his gun and entered the forest. The parties soon became aware of each other's presence, and sought each his cover, the Indian a tree and Mr. Warner a fallen log, each awaiting some exposure on the part of the other. After waiting a while Capt. Warner placed his hat on the end of the muzzle of his gun and raised it a trifle above the log. The Indian fired, and the bullet passed through the hat. Capt. Warner then arose and shot the Indian, sinking his body in the Black Pond near by. The affair was kept secret by Mr. Warner until near the close of his life. He died Feb. 28, 1776.

The most fruitful source of information as to the character of the early inhabitants is the records of their public meetings, which seem to have been kept very minutely. From these it is inferred that they were jealous of their rights as citizens, independent in the formation and fearless in the expression of their convictions on all national, State and county matters, and watchful of their religious, educational and material interests, and by their industry and thrift accumulating independence, and many of them wealth. The action of the town on all local as well as State and national matters has been characterized by a greater harmony than is usual in most towns. Seldom, if ever, have there been two rival political candidates for representative. There has been but little disposition for frequent changes in officers or manner of conducting business. Men once chosen to office, and proving themselves capable and faithful therein, have received the continued support of the people. The longest uninterrupted period of service was by Rev. John Fiske, chairman of school committee fifty-five years; the next by Philip Delano, town clerk thirty-four years.

In politics the Federalists, Whigs and Republicans have in succession always been in a majority ranging from twenty to one to three to one. The greater inequality was in 1803, when Gerry, the Democratic candidate for governor, received only one vote, against eighty for Strong, his opponent. The nearest approach to equality was in 1876 — Republicans, 75; Democrats, 56.

Educational institutions have received a liberal and hearty support. Previous to 1840 there were fourteen graduates of colleges, a larger number than in any town in the Brookfield Association of Churches.

The first district meeting was held at the house of David Ayers (on site of present residence of Sullivan Converse), March 13, 1751, with Eleazer Warner as moderator, and David Woods, town clerk. The selectmen of the first year were Eleazer Warner, David Gilbert and Cornelius Cannon. Among the first acts of the new district was "To raise ten pounds to provide preaching, and to choose a Committee to procure a preacher as soon as conveniently he could be had"; also, "to find a centre of land already laid off, which should be the prefixed spot for a meeting-house." Jan. 1, 1752, the town voted "to build a meeting-house forty by fifty feet," on the site of the present one. Pews were not erected until 1756, and in this wise. A bounty sufficient to cover the expense of a pulpit and deacon's seat, ranging from seven pounds to three per one hundred, was laid on the pew-ground, according to its dignity (location). The right of choice was assigned to persons according to age and character, and each purchaser was to build his own pew. In 1767 the house was lathed and plastered. 1772, porches were added. In 1800 the town voted to build a new meeting-house, fifty feet square, on the site of the old one, to be completed in two years and eight months. Henry Penniman gave \$300 to buy a new bell, and received in return the first choice of seats in the new house. 1802, Henry Penniman and Joseph Bowman gave a new town clock. November 1, first meeting held in new house. No alterations made until 1846, when the house was lowered and entirely remodeled, with town hall and vestry below. Dedicated Oct. 26, 1846, the fiftieth anniversary of the settlement of Rev. John Fiske, D.D. Bounty money on pews procured an organ at an expense of \$1,100. 1877, house again repaired, with funds contributed by Ladies' Social Gathering and a gift of \$300 from estate of Edward Fiske, of Brooklyn, N. Y. The members of the district used great caution in settlement of a minister. They listened to three candidates the first year without choice. They set apart Feb. 21, 1753, as a day of fasting and prayer for direction. Jan. 23, 1754, they sought advice of five neighboring ministers, and, February 4, extended a call to Rev. Benjamin Ruggles of Middleton, with thirty pounds encouragement to settle and fifty pounds annual salary. April 18, he was installed, and officiated twenty-four years. Died May 12, 1782. He was a man of "average ability and sincere piety, and his relations with the people were entirely harmonious and productive of great blessing." Oct. 27, 1778, Rev. Daniel Foster was ordained with one thousand pounds settlement and sixty-six pounds annual salary, and thirty cords of wood. There was much opposition to his settlement, but he proved exceedingly popular, and ultimately won the affections of his people. He died Sept. 1, 1795. The town was without a pastor until Oct. 26, 1796, when Rev. John Fiske of Warwick was installed, with two hundred and thirty pounds settlement and ninety pounds annual salary. He remained until his death, March 15, 1855, fifty-nine years. He received in final settlement from his parish \$800, and \$200 as a private contribution from Josiah Gleason. June 22, 1853, Rev. James T. Hyde, a



graduate of Yale College and Andover Seminary, was ordained as colleague with Dr. Fiske. Mr. Hyde was dismissed Aug. 27, 1855. April 23, 1856, Rev. John H. Gurney was installed, salary \$900; dismissed June 30, 1869. May 3, 1871, Rev. John Dodge of North Brookfield was installed, salary \$1,200; died June 19, 1872. Oct. 30, 1872, Rev. William B. Bond of Chicago was installed. April 18, 1754, the church was first gathered and formed, but no records exist for forty-two years, except in 1778 and '79. Immediately after the settlement of Mr. Foster certain members of the church applied for dismission on the ground of their belief in the virtual denial by their pastor of some of the fundamental truths of the gospel. The application was refused because the points at issue had been settled by the ordaining council. A few retired and attended the Baptist church in Rutland. Previous to 1796 no confession of faith was required for admission to the church. There was no covenant in use between its members. Children were baptized indiscriminately, whether their parents were partakers of the sacrament or not. But in the first year of John Fiske's ministry a new order of things was established. A public confession of faith was required, the practice of baptism restricted, and in 1810 the church was formally and publicly reorganized, with articles of faith and covenant essentially the same as those now in use. It received, from 1796 to 1821, yearly accessions by profession: in 1810 and '11, 37; 1819 and '21, 100; 1827, 30; 1831, 25; 1841, 49; 1866, 20. From 1800 to 1879, 334. Membership in 1810, 58; 1851, 123; 1879, 59.

The following list gives the names of the deacons of this church, and the order in which they were chosen: William Witt, James Woods, Samuel Ware, Jonathan Woods, Jonathan Gould, chosen previous to 1775; George Barr, previous to 1800; Abijah Bigelow, 1805; James Woods, 1808; Jacob Pepper, 1815; Samuel Warner, 1815; Phineas Warner, 1817; Francis Adams, 1828; Amasa Bigelow, 1830; Welcome Newell, 1830; Henry M. Daniels, 1855; Elbridge Gleason and Moses Pollard, 1862.

The first appropriation for schools was made Oct. 1, 1753, of three pounds. School was taught three months, one month each in three different parts of the district. In 1756 the district was divided into four school squadrons, but school was taught in private houses until 1760, when the first school-house was built at the Centre, "twenty feet square, with chimney in the middle," at a cost of ten pounds. In 1767 four new houses were built; appropriation, twenty pounds; 1778, sixty pounds. 1785, first grammar school maintained. 1787, Aaron Hall exempted from taxes so long as he shall serve the town as grammar-school master. The customary appropriation for schools was continued through the Revolutionary War, although it was omitted in many towns. 1777, town divided into eight districts. 1792, permission was granted to each district to build new houses, and they continued to hold and improve their property until 1861, when the town purchased the old houses and erected five new ones at a cost of \$5,000. It was divided in that year again into six

districts. It is interesting to note that in 1861, when the town virtually abolished the district system, it returned to the custom, first adopted in 1753, of giving to each district the same length of school, having in the meantime divided the appropriation, first, in proportion to the amount of taxable property in each district, and afterwards according to the number of scholars; some of the districts with fewer scholars made up the deficiency in wood and board. In 1799 the general supervision of the schools was committed to Rev. John Fiske, who performed the active duties of the office more than fifty years without compensation, excepting the last five years. To him mainly was the town indebted for the relatively high standard of its schools, and the interest in education that has never diminished. In 1800 teachers were first required to pass a legal examination before receiving compensation for services. In 1845 school committees first received compensation. In 1800, appropriations, \$400; 1813, \$500; 1836, \$800; 1874, \$1,800; 1878, second town in county and twenty-second in State in amount raised per scholar, \$17.46.

On the first Monday in June, 1773, in reply to a letter from "y<sup>e</sup> Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Boston," the town

"Voted that the Frecholders and other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Boston hereby receive the hearty thanks of this district for the vigilance, firmness, and wisdom which they have discovered at all times in support of y<sup>e</sup> rights and liberties of the colony, and do heartily concur with them in all their constitutional determinations."

March 7, 1774. A committee was chosen to draw up something in reply to "y<sup>e</sup> Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Boston," relative to the difficulties the Province labors under. April 20, the following resolves were reported, "which, being twice read and considered, were passed unanimously":—

"1<sup>st</sup>. That we will, in conjunction with our Bretheren in America, Risk our Fortunes and even our Lives in defense of his Majesty King George the third, His Person, Crown and Dignity, and will also with y<sup>e</sup> same Resolution, as his free-born subjects in this Country, to the utmost of our Power, And Ability, Defend our Charter Rights that they may be transmitted Inviolat to the Latest Posterity.

"2<sup>d</sup>. Resolved that every British Subject in America, has by our happy constitution as well as by nature, the sole Right to dispose of his own Property either by himself or by his Representative.

"3<sup>d</sup>. Resolved that y<sup>e</sup> act of y<sup>e</sup> British Parliament Laying a Duty on Tea Landed in America payable here is a Tax whereby the Property of Americans is taken from them without their consent.

"Therefore, Resolved: That we will not, either by ourselves or any for or under us, buy or sell or use any of y<sup>e</sup> East India Company Tea Imported from Great Brittain, or any other Tea with a Duty for raising a Revenue thereon in America, which is affixed by acts of Parliament on the same. Neither will we suffer any such Tea to be made up in our Families.

"Resolved, that all such persons as shall purchase, sell or use such Tea shall be for the future deemed unfriendly & Enemies to the happy Constitution of this Country."

At the same time, —

“Voted, Ninety-one Pounds to provide a Town’s Stock of Powder and Lead and Flints with.”

August 25, Deas. James Woods and Samuel Ware were appointed a committee to meet like committees from other towns in the county “to consider what measures they ought to come into at this critical, difficult day,” and a committee of correspondence was chosen. September 2, Dea. James Woods chosen a delegate to a Provincial Congress, to be held in October. The town then chose officers for a standing militia. November 7, a committee of seven chosen to inspect all tea-drinkers, and post their names.

May 22, 1775. James Woods chosen a delegate to a Provincial Congress at Watertown, May 31. The same date, the town accepted the proposal of the minute-men to serve without pay, on condition that the other members of the district provide themselves with arms and ammunition. Same date, a committee chosen to receive and forward the donations to the poor of Boston, and a committee chosen to see that the Provincial and Continental resolves be strictly adhered to.

“May 22, 1776, The Question being put whether y<sup>e</sup> Town would willingly support y<sup>e</sup> General Congress if it shall declare Independence: Passed unanimously in the affirmative.”

Feb. 17, 1777. Jonathan Woods chosen delegate to a County Congress to obtain a more equal and just representation in the General Court for smaller towns. February 24, the Committee of Safety, to prevent monopoly and oppression, fixed a uniform price of all produce and merchandise, and all kinds of labor.

March 31. Voted a bounty of twenty pounds to every soldier who should enlist in the Continental army for three years, and one of ten pounds for one year, and chose a recruiting committee to fill the town’s quota. November 24, a remonstrance was sent to the General Court against charging interest on bills of credit emitted by the State.

Jan. 5, 1778. Voted that the town *has no objection* to articles of Confederation and perpetual Union between the United States of America. But the town refused, May 19, 1778, and again May 31, 1780, to adopt the Constitution of the State of Massachusetts Bay. The cost of war to town and number of men furnished is unknown; but the records from 1778 to ’82 are replete with votes for filling quota of men and horses, paying bounties, monthly wages, and furnishing clothing and provisions to soldiers and their families.

May, 1786. The town gave instructions to its representative, setting forth the great extortion and oppression practiced by the lawyers of the Commonwealth, their growing importance as a class in numbers and wealth, and the danger to civil liberty thereby; the tardiness of obtaining justice in the courts, and high fees of certain court officers; and expressing the belief that our only



hope of existence as a nation rested in the frugality, economy and industry of the people. The dissatisfaction arising from these grievances culminated in Shays' Rebellion. Twenty-two from New Braintree joined Capt. Shays.

Jan. 13, 1787. The town entered its protest against the course adopted by the Regulators, and chose a committee to confer with the Hon. Gen. Lincoln and officers, and Capt. Shays and officers, and effect a reconciliation. It also voted, February 3, to petition the General Court for a general pardon of the insurgents, provided they laid down their arms and returned to their allegiance; also to send circular-letters to a number of towns in this and other counties, inviting them to send similar petitions. February 5, a communication was received from Gen. Lincoln, advising the town to call home without delay all the men belonging to it in arms under Capt. Shays, and not to afford any aid or comfort to the insurgents. When this letter was received, after being several times read and considered, such a disagreement appeared concerning the adoption of the course advised, that the meeting dissolved without action.

March 17, 1787. The twenty-two took the oath of allegiance. May 21, the town instructed its representative as follows: —

“In all free Governments, that idea ought ever to be Kept in view that the Rulers and Ministers of State are the Honorable Servants and not the Haughty Masters of the people, and directing him to use his utmost exertions for a general pardon of the insurgents lately in rebellion, restricting the number of lawyers in the Commonwealth to a small number of approved and upright character, to dismiss the Courts of Common Pleas, Sheriffs and Dep. Sheriffs of Worcester County, empower the selectmen to do the business of Judge of Probate, and have the General Court removed from Boston.”

June, 1790. Adopted an act to discourage unnecessary lawsuits, providing for a committee of three discreet freeholders, to whom should be submitted for settlements all demands whatsoever held by one citizen against another. The fees of the committee were two shillings each for each case. Any person refusing to present his claim to the committee for settlement should be deemed unfriendly to the peace of the town, and treated by the inhabitants with contempt and neglect as to dealings and intercourse, save in the bare offices of humanity, and should have no votes for any town office for three years.

March 20, 1792. The town became security to the Commonwealth for Joseph Bowman and three others in a contract to support the entire poor of the State for ten years. They in turn agreed to collect all taxes during that time free of expense; to take all kinds of produce in payment of taxes at a generous price, and to purchase at a generous price from said town all produce needed besides for the support of said poor.

1753. The “Great Bridge” was built over Ware River, near the “Furnace.”

1770. First known fire occurred, of John Barr's house, and town meeting adjourned thereby.

1775. A committee chosen to encourage manufacture of saltpetre.

1796. Parade-ground presented by Henry Penniman.

1804. Bounds established between Brookfield and New Braintree.

1808. September 1. The town petitioned the President of the United States for a suspension of the act of embargo of 1807.

1810. Town visited with spotted fever, and two hundred and forty dollars paid by town for attendance of physicians. Bounds of Common established.

July 2, 1812. Voted to co-operate with the town of Boston in using all constitutional means to avert the threatened war.

July 24. Memorialized the President of the United States, disapproving of the present war, and abhorring an alliance with France.

1817. Sabbath-school first organized.

1818. Stoves first introduced into meeting-house.

Previous to 1826, the support of the poor had been put up at auction to the lowest bidder. In 1833, the town purchased the Little farm, and supported its poor thereon.

1835. Adopted rules for the regulation of its pauper establishment.

March 7, 1832. New Braintree Thief-Detecting Society organized with a membership of forty-eight.

The "New Braintree Temperance House" was erected by a stock company at an expense of nearly six thousand dollars. It has not proved to be a paying investment to stockholders, but a prevention to the spread of intemperance.

Until 1843, religious institutions were supported by a town tax, New Braintree being the last town in the Commonwealth to sever the relation between Church and State.

March 20, 1843. The Congregational parish was organized with a membership of seventy-nine.

In 1860, the "pleuro-pneumonia" appeared among the cattle. Two whole herds were slaughtered, and five hundred dollars paid for the relief of the sufferers.

The pursuits of the inhabitants have been almost wholly agricultural. The dairy has been the chief source of income. As early as 1800, New Braintree cheese had acquired an enviable reputation in Boston. Previous to 1865, this was made in private dairies; during that year, the New Braintree Cheese Manufacturing Company was organized with a capital of \$4,000, and erected and furnished a factory at a cost of \$11,000. The greatest quantity of milk made in one year was 3,021,000 pounds, which may be a fair estimate of the annual production of the town. The market value of this was \$42,294.

1861. The first legal town meeting to act upon matters relating to the war of the Rebellion, was held May 7th, at which the selectmen were authorized to pay each volunteer belonging to the town five dollars per month while in service, in addition to regular pay, and four dollars per month to his wife, and two dollars to each child under twelve years of age. July 21, 1862, voted, to

pay a bounty of one hundred dollars to each volunteer who enlists for three years, and ten dollars additional to those who enlist within one week. Aug. 26. The bounty for three years' volunteers was raised to two hundred dollars, and the bounty to volunteers for nine months fixed at one hundred and fifty dollars, which Nov. 4 was raised to two hundred dollars. Nov. 3, 1863. The town treasurer was directed to pay the treasurer of the State "the balance due under the act equalizing the bounties of volunteers."

April 11, 1864. Voted, a bounty of one hundred and twenty-five dollars to volunteers for three years' service, and this bounty was continued to be paid until the end of the war. The town raised \$9,000.55 for the war, besides State aid, and seventy-eight men, four beyond her quota. One only, Lieut. George Davis, was a commissioned officer.

The first representative to the General Court, Maj. James Woods was chosen in 1775, for which he received a compensation of eleven pounds eight shillings and twopence. His successors were, in 1776, Jonathan Woods; 1779 to 1784, Joseph Bowman; 1786, Capt. Artemas Howe; 1787 to 1793, Capt. Benjamin Joslyn; 1794, Capt. A. Howe; 1796, Elias Hall; 1797, 1800 and 1801, Benj. Joslyn; 1798, Elias Hall; 1803 to 1806, Capt. James Woods; 1807 to 1814, Joseph Bowman, Jr.; 1815 to 1817, Col. Henry Penniman; 1818 and 1819, Col. Samuel Mixter; 1821, Gideon Delano; 1823, Capt. David Wait; 1824 and 1825, Gideon Delano; 1826 and 1827, Jos. Bowman; 1828 and 1829, Philip Delano; 1831, Jos. Bowman; 1833, Samuel Bigelow; 1834, Amory H. Bowman; 1835 and 1836, James Bowdoin; 1837 and 1838, Job Rainger; 1839, James Bowman; 1840 and 1841, Col. Stephen Fay; 1842 and 1843, Capt. Hollis Tidd; 1844 and 1848, Henry A. Delano; 1851, Jonathan G. Frost; 1852, Moses Pollard; 1854 and 1855, Amory H. Felton; 1857, Henry M. Daniels, 1863, Saxton P. Martin, M. D.; 1869, Charles Wilcox; 1873, Charles A. Gleason.

Prominently connected with its local matters previous to 1790, were: David Ayers, Capt. Eleazer Warner, Dea. James Woods, Joseph Pepper, Dea. Jonathan Woods, David Woods, James Thompson, Dea. William Witt, Samuel Ware, Matthew Barr, Robert Hunter, Jonathan Cobleigh, Beriah Hawes, Maj. Joseph Bowman, Thomas Whipple, Jacob Pepper, Percival Hall, Solomon Mathews, Joseph Barr, Maj. Artemas Howe, Benj. Joslyn, Henry Penniman, Wareham Warner, John Tufts, Jonathan Nye.

April 19, 1775, a company of minute-men, numbering fifty, was organized under John Granger as captain, and attached to Col. Jonathan Warner's regiment. Their time of service averaged two weeks. A muster-roll of the company under Capt. Granger, in Col. Learned's regiment, Aug. 1, 1775, includes thirty-three from New Braintree, twenty from Westurn (now Warren), and ten from other towns. Their time of service was three months one week and six days. May 27, 1778, wages were paid to soldiers per month at the following rates: To those serving in the army in New York, five pounds;



at Ticonderoga and westward, six pounds; in the Jerseys, four pounds; at Fishkill, six pounds; to Continentals, for three years, three pounds ten shillings. The third regiment, State militia, including, with others, one company of militia from this town, and one company of grenadiers from New Braintree and Oakham jointly, mustered every alternate year on the parade-grounds granted by Henry Penniman.

The commissioned colonels of the third regiment from New Braintree, were: Samuel Mixter, Louis Blackmer, Henry Penniman, Stephen Fay, Asa Barr, Roswell Converse and Amory H. Bowman, Brigade Inspector, with rank of colonel.

Hon. Samuel Mixter, born Oct. 15, 1784; in the House of Representatives, 1818 and 1819; senator for Worcester County, 1833, 1834 and 1835; councilor, 1837 and 1838; commissioned colonel of third regiment State militia; prominent in school matters and probate of estates; died March 30, 1862.

Hon. Joseph Bowman was born in New Braintree, Sept. 11, 1771. With very limited education, he entered business, during his minority, with Henry Penniman, in his native place. By enterprise, untiring industry, perseverance, sound judgment and unflinching integrity, he enlarged the business until it extended through very many of the towns in the west half of Worcester and east part of Hampshire counties. He continued in business thirty-five years, realizing a considerable fortune. He was chosen president of Hampshire Manufacturers' Bank in Ware, in 1827, and held the office twenty-one years. In politics he was a member of the Whig party; elected representative in 1807 and thirteen times thereafter; senator in 1827 and 1828, and member of the council under Gov. Lincoln's administration, in 1833 and 1834; a liberal supporter of religious and educational institutions; died Jan. 30, 1852.

Rev. John Fiske, D. D., born at Warwick, Oct. 26, 1770; graduated at Dartmouth, 1791; studied theology under Rev. Dr. Lyman of Hatfield; licensed to preach at Hadley, March 6, 1794; settled in New Braintree, Oct. 26, 1796; received degree of D. D. from Amherst College in 1844; published a spelling-book in 1807; Fast Day sermon 1812; dedicatory and semi-centennial discourse 1846; a founder and long a trustee of Amherst College; eminently wise, cautious, determined, modest, with a steady adherence to his convictions of truth and justice; had a thorough knowledge of human nature, an uncommon tact in dealing with men, and exercised a great influence in his town, and in the association in which, by common consent, he occupied the first position; died March 15, 1855, after a ministry of fifty-eight years.

A list of the town clerks of New Braintree is appended, with the date of first election of each: David Woods, 1750; Benjamin Bradshaw, 1778; Joseph Bowman, 1779; Elias Hall, 1781; Percival Hall, 1787; Alpheus Warner, 1794; Philip Delano, 1800; Amasa Bigelow, 1834; Henry A. Delano, 1843; A. A. Kendall, 1855; Henry A. Delano, 1856; Abijah Eddy, 1861; Rev. John H. Gurney, 1863; Charles B. Frost, 1864; George K. Tufts, 1867.

# NORTHBOROUGH.

BY REV. HORACE DUTTON.\*

## CHAPTER I.

SITUATION AND ASPECTS — INCORPORATION — EARLY SETTLERS — RELIGIOUS HISTORY — MINISTERS — LATER SOCIETIES — EDUCATION — LYCEUMS — LIBRARIES.

NORTHBOROUGH is a pleasant town on the eastern boundary of Worcester County, thirty-two miles west of Boston by the railroad, which runs through its centre. It lies in a kind of valley open toward the south, and bounded by the hills of Berlin on the north, Boylston and Shrewsbury on the west, Westborough on the south, and Marlborough on the east. This valley is finely watered by the Assabet River, and its tributaries, Howard and Cold Harbor brooks, which unite with the larger stream at the centre of the town. By Stirrup Brook, the waters of Chauncy and Bartlett ponds in the south-westerly part of the town find their way through a long swamp into the Assabet. In the northern part of the town are three parallel ranges — Ball Hill, Mount Pisgah and Sulphur Hill. In the centre is Mount Assabet, from the summit of which the spires of nearly twenty churches may be seen. In the south-east is Rock Hill. In the south-west is Tomlin Hill.

Although Northborough lies in a kind of valley, the reader will not conclude from this that the situation is unhealthful. Away back in post-glacial times, this was probably the bed of a primeval lake; at any rate the subsoil is generally of gravel, and the surface well drained. People attain to good old age within its borders.

Northborough contains within its present limits 10,150 acres of strong and good soil. Its outline roughly resembles an arrow-head, with the axis of greatest length running from north-east on Ball Hill to the south-west on the Assabet River, near the dwelling-house of Mr. Sidney Bigelow. The outer corners of the base are on the east at the farm of Mr. G. P. Heath, and on the west at the farm of Mr. Ira Lawrence.

\* The author would here acknowledge his indebtedness to the sketch of the history of Northborough, published in 1826, by Rev. Joseph Allen, D. D.

This town was not incorporated until Jan. 24, 1766, but for the previous twenty-two years it really had a separate existence from the parent town, being set off as the second precinct or parish of Westborough, Oct. 20, 1744. The town records commence at this last-named date, and the people, by their struggles to build a meeting-house, and support a minister, and by their continual gatherings on the Sabbath in a separate house of worship, were effectually divided from the parent town, though they still voted, paid their taxes and received appropriations for the support of schools and roads from the treasury of Westborough until 1766.

The oldest vestige of pioneer life still in existence and general use is unquestionably the "great road" to Worcester, as it is still very properly called. The grant given to John Rediat in 1672 mentions an older road, but speaks of it as disused at the time the deed was given. One of the bounds of his grant was "the Nepmuck road that *formerly* led toward Coneticoat." This was the "old Conneticoat road," and led through the south-east part of the town over Rock Hill and past Chauncy Pond. The above-named grant shows that in 1672 this road had ceased to be used, and was already displaced by the "new Connecticut road," or, as it was afterwards called, "the post road." Though but a mere foot or bridle path through the woods, it was the highway of communication between Boston and the western settlements. Let us stop and think of the throng that has traveled over its surface—the Indian, the pioneer, the minute-men of Bunker Hill, Burgoyne's surrendered army, Washington, Lafayette, the brilliant wife of Jerome Bonaparte, to say nothing of the nameless host—and let us no longer deny respect to antiquity.

The oldest settler known to tradition is John Brigham, who, in 1672, received a grant on "Licor Meadow plain," and came at once, and built a saw-mill and a cabin, staying until fear of savages drove him away.

Below is a partial list of the early settlers; the second column gives the names of persons living now on or near the same house-lots or other identifications. The list is only partial, and covers the period from 1672 till 1752:

John Brigham,	. . . .	Parker, Twitchell & Co.'s saw-mill.
Thomas Brigham,	. . . .	G. P. Heath.
Samuel Goodenow,	. . . .	Wm. A. Bartlett.
Nathanael Oakes,	. . . .	Sam. McCluer; Martin & Whitney parsonage.
Simeon Howard, Sr.,	. . . .	Eliab Wood, opp. old Orthodox meeting-house.
Gershom Fay, Sr.,	. . . .	On hill-side, west of East school-house.
Capt. Jas. Eager,*	. . . .	McIntyre Place—Mrs. Thompson.
Dea. Matthias Rice,	. . . .	Stratton Place.
Jacob Rice,	. . . .	Centre Grammar School-house.

\* Capt. Eager's house when built was the only human habitation on the new Connecticut road between Samuel Goodenow's (see above) and Brookfield. Dr. Allen says it was the only house except the Indian village of Boggachoag near Worcester, but this village was three miles south of the road. (See Mass. Historical Coll., vol. I., p. 192.) This house was afterwards used as the first tavern in town and a garrison. Capt. Eager gave the land on which the meeting-house was erected.



Belzeel Eager, . . . . .	Chas. Potter.
Silas Fay, . . . . .	Simmons Farm.
Dea. Isaac Tomlin, . . . . .	Mrs. George Davis.
Hezekiah Tomblin, . . . . .	Top of Tomlin Hill.
Dea. Jonathan Livermore, . . . . .	Asa Gage.
Thomas Goodnow. . . . .	T. C. Woodward.
Ephraim Allen, . . . . .	J. A. Budd.
Adam Holloway, . . . . .	George H. Williams.
Samuel Wood, . . . . .	Old Seaver Place, owned by Milo Hildreth.
Simeon Howard, Jr., . . . . .	Judson Day.

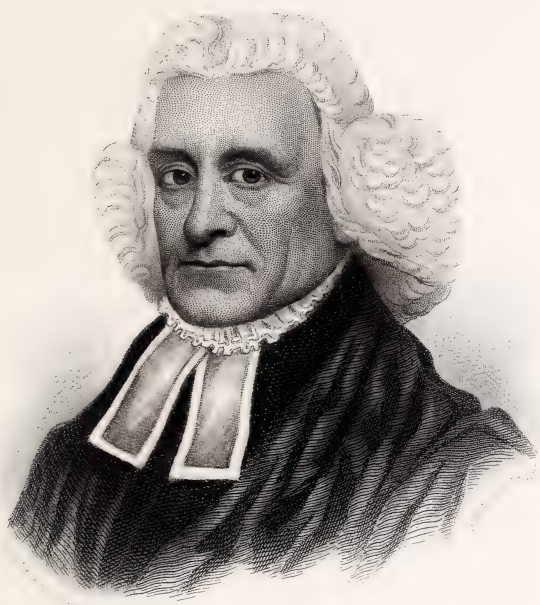
The first church was organized by the signature of ten names to the covenant, besides that of the pastor-elect. Creed there was none, and none was needed, for the Assembly's Catechism, which was taught in every farm-house and school-room, afforded an unquestioned standard of belief. As an illustration of the poverty of the people at this time (May 21, 1746), and their eagerness for religious privileges, it is interesting to note that the ordination services took place in the meeting-house, although at the time of ordination it was destitute of pulpit, pews, galleries, or even permanent floors, and was lighted only by rough openings in the unplastered walls. It was not completed till 1756, ten years after.

The salary offered to Mr. Martyn is also interesting, and illustrates the beauties of an irredeemable paper currency. "£50 in bills of the last emission or £200 in Bills of the old tenor, or *other bills* of Public Credit equivalent to said sum; also £300 Old Tenor money as a settlement." A pound, old tenor, equaled eighty-two cents.

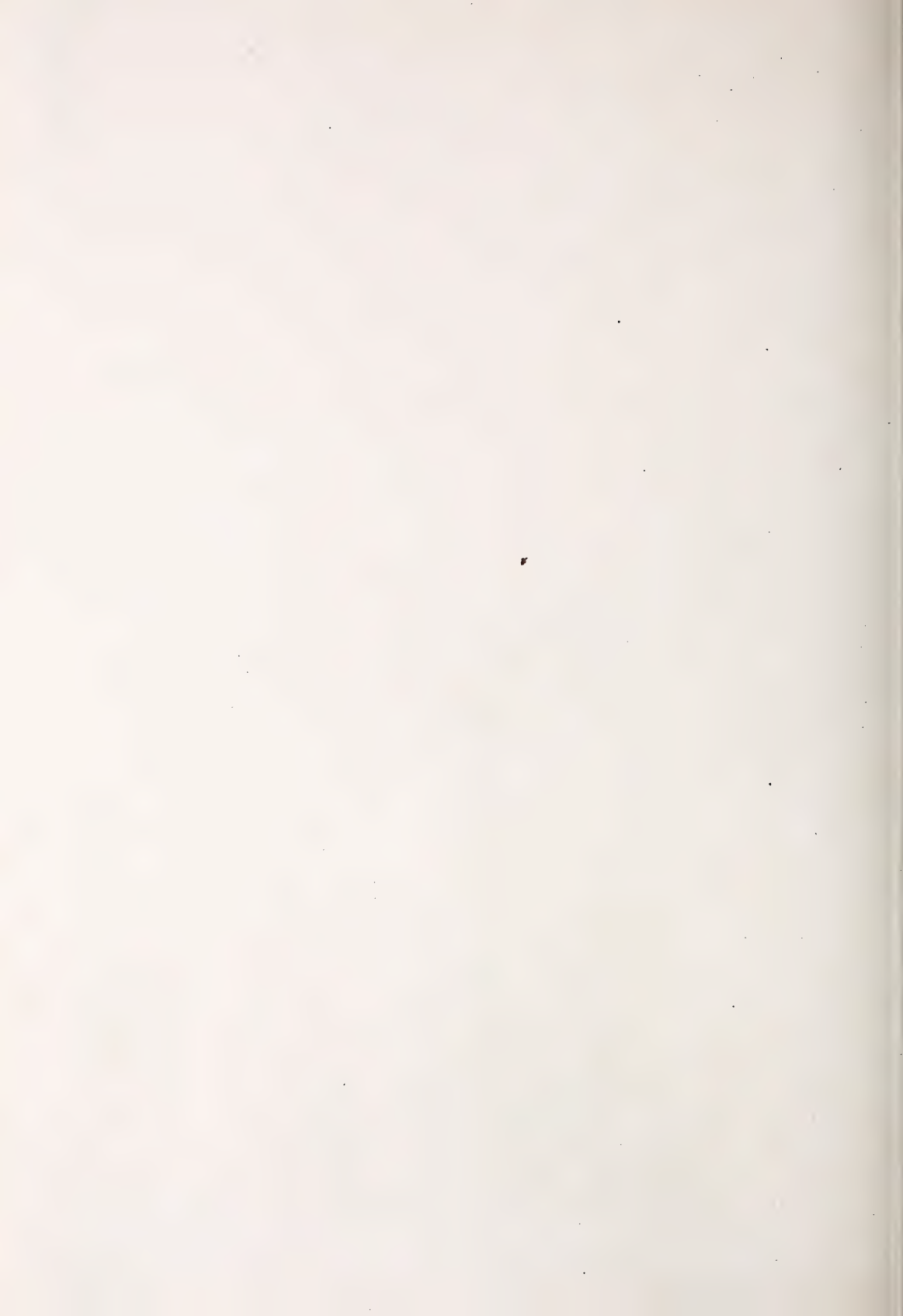
The original meeting-house — now moved from its old location, which was a little west of the present Unitarian Church, to make the central part of the barn of Mr. E. M. Norcross — had no bell, belfry, or even chimney. It was painted a dingy yellow, and had three doors, one each on the east, west and south sides, — doors which opened inward, and let in a great deal of cold air when they were opened. There was a tall pulpit over which was a sounding-board; in front of the pulpit, facing the audience, were the deacon's seats; around the four walls and in the centre were the pews, high-backed and square, with half of the seats compelling one to sit back to the minister; overhead were the galleries, with the men on one side, and the women on the other. At noon, between services, some would go to the tavern and warm themselves by the blazing fire without, and, we fear, by a glass or two of spirit within, or to Mr. Holbrook's, who lived in the house next the residence of Mr. Wilder Bush, and who kept the saw-mill.

The following is a list of the ministers of this church from the beginning to the present time :—

John Martyn, born in Boston, 1706; Harvard College, 1724; ordained in Northborough, May 21, 1746. The interval between these dates he had spent in business pursuits. Died April 30, 1767.



*Peter Whitney-*





Peter Whitney, born Sept. 6, 1744 ; Harvard College, 1762 ; ordained in Northborough, Nov. 4, 1767. Mr. Whitney was the author of an excellent history of Worcester County. He was a very methodical man, always walking with his wife to meeting, followed by his ten children always in the exact order of their age. He was an easy-going man, perhaps more absorbed in the political issues of his day than in direct aggressive religious work. He died suddenly, Feb. 19, 1816, after a pastorate of forty-nine years.

Joseph Allen, D. D., born in Medfield, Aug. 15, 1790 ; Harvard College, 1811 ; ordained at Northborough, Oct. 30, 1816 ; died in ripe old age, Feb. 23, 1873. Dr. Allen was a remarkable man,—a peacemaker, and a cultivated scholar. He was widely known throughout his denomination as the author of several Sabbath School Question-Books ; and in town he exercised a powerful and long continued influence. He had a deep interest in the prosperity and the culture of this town, and wrote its history up to the year 1826. On the fortieth anniversary of his settlement he resigned the active labor of the pastorate, and the following clergymen were settled as his colleagues :—T. B. Forbush, Jan. 1, 1858, to July 1, 1863 ; H. L. Myrick, June 27, 1866, to Oct. 1, 1868 ; F. L. Hosmer, Oct. 29, 1869, to Aug. 25, 1872.

The next pastor was C. T. Irish, installed July 9, 1873, and resigned July 1, 1876.

The present pastor is H. F. Bond, who commenced labor April 1, 1877.

This society has an excellent meeting-house, erected in 1808, at a cost of \$10,000. They have a parsonage built in 1876, at a cost of \$3,000, exclusive of the land.

The Baptist Church, consisting at the beginning of twenty-seven members, was formed July 2, 1827. This organization has also had two meeting-houses, both of which stood on the same site. The first was built in 1828. The present edifice was dedicated Nov. 28, 1850. This church has had frequent changes in the pastorate, having had fourteen pastors in the fifty-two years of its existence.

Previous to 1848 the changes were so frequent and their stay in town was so short, that the list of their names will not be of interest. We append the names of those who have held this office since 1848 :—Charles Farrar, 1848–55 ; Silas Ripley, 1855–65 ; D. F. Lamson, 1865–73 ; W. K. Davey, 1873–77 ; E. L. Goddard, 1877–78. The present pastor is J. Tillson, who commenced labor here December, 1878. This society has a parsonage purchased in 1868, at a cost of \$1,800.

The Evangelical Congregational Society was organized April 12, 1832, with thirty-five members. The pastors of this church are as follows :—Samuel A. Fay, 1832–36 ; Daniel H. Emerson, 1836–40 ; Joshua Bates, D. D., 1840–2 ; William A. Houghton, 1843–51 ; Samuel S. Ashley, 1852–64 ; George E. Sanborne, 1865–70. Horace Dutton commenced his labors May, 1, 1870, and resigned May 1, 1879. This society has also had two meeting-houses, the first dedicated Oct. 17, 1832, now occupied as a dwelling-house by Capt. Lewis Fay ; the second erected in 1847. The parsonage was purchased and reconstructed in 1873, at a total cost of \$3,000.

The following extract from our town records, dated April 13, 1766, (the year of incorporation) is of interest:—"Voted & allowed Thos. Goodenow school-master for boarding himself nineteen weeks £3 16s." As has been said, this man lived on the site now occupied by the house of Mr. Theodore C. Woodward. Dr. Allen says in his centennial discourse:—"Long before any school-houses had been erected, Master Goodenow was accustomed to teach from house to house, a few weeks at a time in each, the precinct paying him four shillings a week for his board. At this date he was 57 years old."

In 1770 the district was divided into four "squadrons" or school districts. And in 1780, fourteen years after its incorporation, the district granted £4,000 in the greatly depreciated Continental currency, equal to \$175 in coin, to build four school-houses; afterwards there was an additional grant which amounted to \$367 in hard money, so that each school-house cost in all \$135.

Interesting facts about these early nurseries of intelligence, the location and construction of the buildings, and the names of some of the teachers might be given, but want of space alone forbids. No true child of New England is ever weary of recalling the incidents of his school-time days.

The first school-house in this town, erected as early as 1779, was the result of private enterprise. An association of citizens was formed, called the "Seminary Association," and the building was built by subscription, in thirty-five shares. It stood nearly opposite the old Orthodox meeting-house, now occupied as a dwelling-house by Capt. Lewis Fay. This seminary was supported by annual assessments of the shareholders, and if any children from families, outside the association, desired to share its privileges, they paid a fixed tuition. Master James Hart was the teacher who seems to be remembered for his skill in penmanship. A number of documents relating to this association are still preserved.

The seminary building stood in its original place for twenty-seven years. It had gradually become neglected, as those who had constructed it passed off the stage, and was finally used as a sheep-pen. In 1808 it was removed, and now forms the main part of the house of Mr. Dennis ("Altamont") Rice.

In 1826, the town for the first time elected a school committee; for the duty of superintending the schools had, before this, devolved upon the minister and selectmen.

At the present time, in addition to four district schools, there are at the centre a grammar school-house, erected in 1837, and a high-school building, built in 1870. The appropriation for schools has risen from £11 (\$36) in 1767, \$750 in 1845, and \$1,200 in 1855, to \$3,200 in 1879.

Northborough has produced an unusually large number of teachers, and the town has a fair record in respect to education.

"Among its educational institutions the lyceum deserves a passing notice. It was among the earliest, if not the first formed in this county, and continued in active operation for more than thirty years, beginning with 1828. It was in

fact a free high school, and, by its lectures and debates, did good service in the cause of popular education."

The honor of founding this institution belongs to Dr. Allen, whose words have just been quoted. In the year 1826, he delivered a course of astronomical lectures which awakened great interest, and resulted in the formation of the lyceum. Within a few years an attempt was made to revive this institution, but it does not seem to have succeeded very well for some reason.

From the year 1793 until 1867, when our Free Public Library was instituted, various attempts have been made, with more or less success, to supply the citizens of this community with an abundance of attractive reading matter. We append a list of libraries which have been formed here :

*Social Library*, mentioned by Rev. Peter Whitney in his History of Northborough, and said to have been formed by about thirty gentlemen, with provisions for its annual increase ; in 1793 it contained 100 volumes.

*Female Religious Tract Society* (1817), finally merged into the Orthodox Sunday-school Library.

*Social Library* (1817). Sixty young ladies met in a room in the meeting-house and sewed straw, thus earning \$100, which was spent for books.

*Northborough Free Library* (1827). Founded by a donation of fifty volumes from Dr. Allen, and accepted by the church, with the promise that it should remain forever free to all, and be supported only by voluntary contributions. The old Social Library was afterwards merged with this, and thus enlarged, it contained more than four hundred volumes.

*Young Men's Library*, kept in Gale & Davis's store, afterwards in the Arcade Building. Finally sold at auction.

*School District Library*. In 1843 the town accepted a donation of \$90 from the State of Massachusetts, and purchased with this sum a library for each school district. The intention was that each library should pass from school to school in rotation, but this arrangement proving unsatisfactory, the six libraries were merged into one, and kept at the store of Mr. George Barnes. Finally incorporated with the Public Library.

*Agricultural Library* (August, 1857). The books of this were also given to the next ; viz. :—

*Free Public Library*, which contains, at present, 4,608 volumes. Added last year, 318. Income for 1877-78, \$543.47. Fund, \$1,125. In the year 1866, the centennial year, Hon. Cyrus Gale and Hon. Milo Hildreth offered, the one \$1,000 and the other \$250 to the town, for a public library, provided that a suitable town hall should be built, and a room furnished for the books in the new building. This offer was accepted, and the hall was built at a cost of \$35,000. The fund thus created was afterwards increased in various ways, especially by a gift of \$1,000 — \$500 in cash and \$500 in books, the latter of which are for the most part yet to be received — from the Hon. Isaac Davis of Worcester, a native of this town.



## CHAPTER II.

CIVIL HISTORY — THE REVOLUTION AND THE LATER WARS — MANUFACTURES —  
 EARLY MILLS — IRON FORGE AND POTASH WORKS — PRESENT FACTORIES —  
 LARGE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY — EMINENT CITIZENS.

In the old French wars at least thirteen went from this small precinct; three joined the expedition to Halifax in 1754; two were at Crown Point in 1755; and eight were with the army under Gen. Abercrombie in his defeat before Ticonderoga. (See Allen's History for particulars.)

With regard to the Revolutionary war, our town records from 1773 to 1780 furnish ample evidence that the people of this small community were fully awake to the situation.

The following communication appeared in the "Massachusetts Gazette," Feb. 17, 1773: —

"We hear from Shrewsbury that one day last week a pedlar was observed to go into a tavern with a bag containing about 30 lbs. of tea. Information of which being had at Northborough a company of" [young men disguised as] "Indians went from the Great Swamp or thereabouts, and seized upon it, and committed it to the flames in the road facing said tavern, until it was entirely consumed."

It was *ten months* after this act of these young men of Northborough, viz., Dec. 16, 1773, that three hundred chests of tea were thrown overboard in Boston harbor by a party of so-called "Indians."

Some time before the war broke out a company of fifty minute-men was raised among this community, and it was while this company was gathering upon the common, at 1 P. M., April 19, 1776, that a messenger came with the tidings on his lips that blood had been shed that day at Concord. Instantly the whole village became the scene of hurried preparation, and it is related that a niece of Capt. Samuel Wood, who was also the mother of Dea. Samuel Wood now living, sat up all of the next night to assist in casting bullets, and that next day a daughter was born to her, who afterwards became the wife of Asaph Rice. The company met the next morning in front of what is now well known as the old Seaver house, which was at that time the residence of Capt. Woods, and from there marched to the camp at Cambridge, and afterwards took part in the battle of Bunker Hill. The pay-roll and other papers of this company are still preserved, and are in the possession of Dea. S. W. Norcross.

The small number of Tories in town and the state of feeling toward them are best illustrated by the following: —

*"To the Gentlemen Selectmen & Comm. of Correspondence for the Town of Northborough:*

The petition of Sylvanus Billings Humbly Sheweth that he is desirous to settle with this town & is willing to confess his faults. He owns that he has been backward and unfriendly in not defending this Country against the Brittish Power; he owns that he

was unfriendly in not bringing Caleb Green to Justice who was a notorious villain and an enemy to his country : to this & all other of his faults in this matter he is heartily sorry for, & humbly asks forgiveness of the good people of this Town & so is willing to submit a peaceable & reasonable settlement : He desires that you wd hear his petition & take it into your wise consideration & restore him into friendship again, as in duty bound shall pray. This from your most obedient and well wishing friend, who promises in future to be a good member of Society.

[Sg]

SILVANUS BILLINGS.

"Mch. 23d, 1780."

Northborough was always strongly opposed to the system of slavery, and, amongst other things, claims the honor of being the first to call for the convention which resulted in the formation of the Free-Soil party. It is, doubtless, true that the universal feeling of disgust throughout New England at the pro-slavery proclivities of the nominees of both the Democratic and the Whig parties made this a spontaneous movement ; but still it is true that Capt. Cyrus Gale of Northborough was the first to draw up a call for a convention, and to take it, in company with Samuel Clark, Esq, to the office of the "Whig" newspaper, edited by Chas. Francis Adams. The original call, printed as a hand-bill, and bearing the signature of one hundred and seventy-two names, is in the possession of the author of this sketch.

A similar earnest spirit of patriotism was shown in the war of the Rebellion. Immediately after President Lincoln made his first call for troops, a citizens' meeting was held, at which resolutions were adopted showing an intense determination to uphold the government. And, in the legal meetings which followed, the town showed that the resolutions of the previous mass meetings were not empty words of momentary enthusiasm, but were the indications of a deep-settled purpose. It is worthy of note, that for one year the pay granted to volunteers from this town and their families was considerably in excess of what was allowed by law. The authority for this statement is Schouler's History of Massachusetts in the Rebellion, which is also responsible for the following statistics :—

"The number of men furnished by Northborough for the war was 140, which was a surplus of 9 over and above all demands. Two were commissioned officers. The total amount of money appropriated and expended by the Town on account of the war, exclusive of State aid, was \$10,647.57. The State aid to soldiers' families, afterwards repaid by the State, amounted to \$8,840.70."

The ladies of this town were also very patriotic, taking their sewing-machines from their homes to the churches and working together in making clothing. They also prepared and sent many boxes of provisions to our boys in the army. One of our clergymen, the Rev. S. S. Ashley, was so much absorbed in this conflict that he resigned his charge and joined the Christian Commission, where he labored in hospital and camp for the physical comfort and religious instruction of our soldiers, and has, since the completion

of the war, given his whole time and strength to efforts for the elevation of the colored people of the South, having been Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of North Carolina, and President of Straight University, New Orleans, La.

To commemorate these scenes of the war, and especially to perpetuate the memory of those who never returned to their homes and kindred, the town, in the year 1869, erected a Soldiers' Monument, at a cost of \$3,000. It is a fine shaft of granite, surmounted by the figure of an eagle, standing upon a suitable base, upon which are inscribed the names of twenty-five deceased soldiers. A Post of the Grand Army of the Republic also exists in town, organized June 18, 1869, having at present twenty-five members.

The beginning of mill-work and mechanical industry was very early indeed, as we see by the following action of the local authority: "Nov. 15, 1744, Voted that Precinct meetings for the Futuer should be warned by two notifications, posted up, one at Ephraim Allen's mill, & y<sup>e</sup> other at Bezeleel Eager's." Ephraim Allen had a grist-mill (the first in town) at the upper end of D. F. Wood's mill-pond. The remains of his dam may still be seen.

The clothiers' business was commenced in town by Samuel Wood, who came from Sudbury and started in a small way in the old Seaver house, in the lower story, while he and his family lived in the second story. He must have moved to town as early as the year 1750, as he was precinct clerk in 1751. At first he simply fulled the cloth brought to him from the different farm-houses, afterwards he added a dyeing and coloring department. The business descended in due course to his two sons, Capt. Samuel and Capt. Abraham Wood, and they in turn transferred it to Dea. Samuel Seaver, father of Mr. A. W. Seaver, by whom the business was continued, first in the western L of the Seaver house, then in what is now the rear end of the manufactory of Hon. Milo Hildreth, and then, having sold the Hildreth shop to Capt. Thomas Lyon, in the lower shop.

Rev. Peter Whitney, in his sketch of Northborough, speaks of this fulling-mill (then in the old Seaver house), and states that, at that time (1793), "about seven thousand yards of cloth are annually dressed, and the work is most acceptably performed to the honor and advantage of the town and the interest of the community."

This locality, where the Assabet River crosses the post road, seems to have been at that time the business centre of the town; for, he adds, that, —

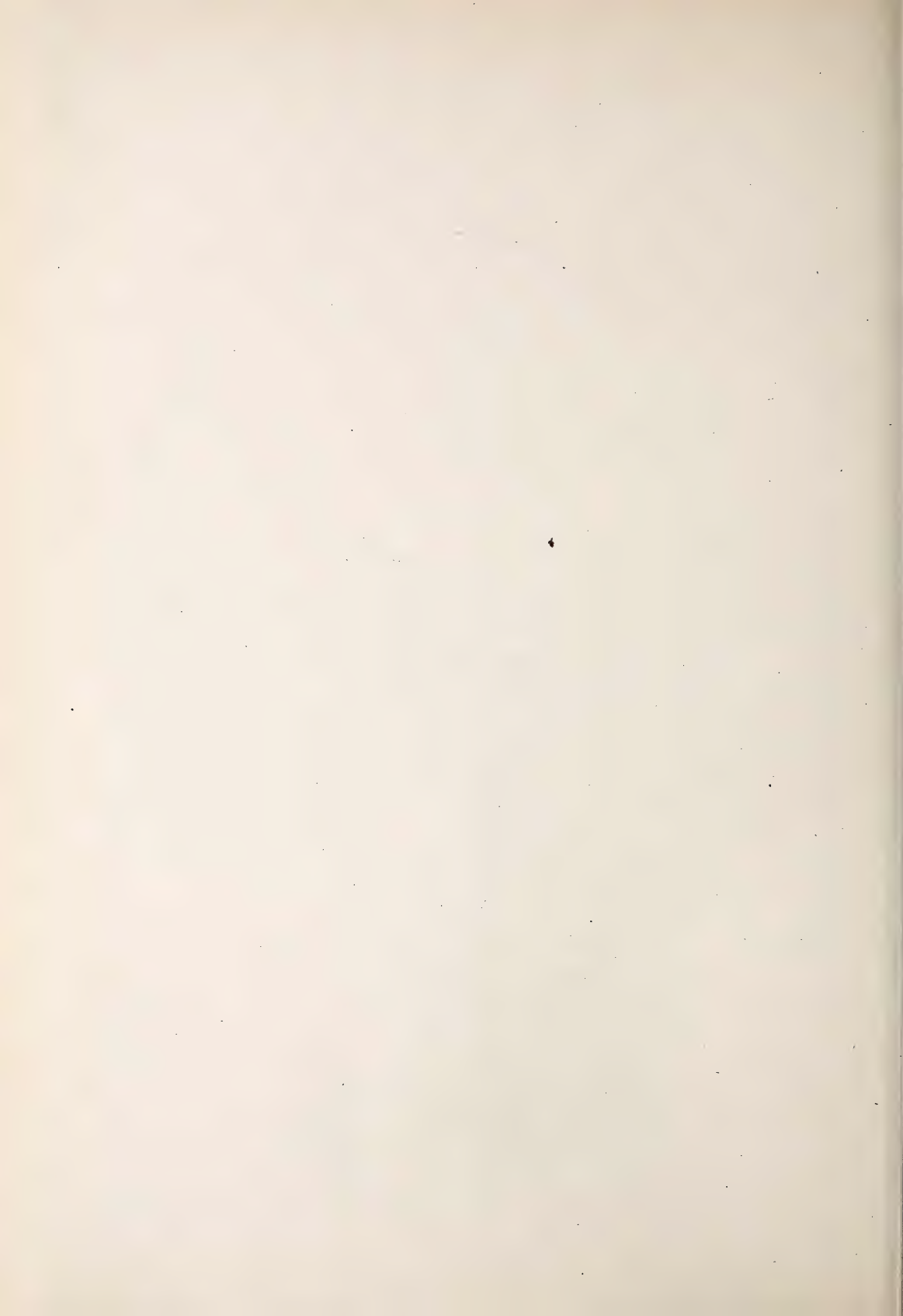
"On the opposite side of the road are works for the manufacture of iron, where many tons have been made. There is in the vicinity a great plenty of ore, especially of the bog kind.\* Near the forge are works for the manufacture of potash, owned by Dr. Stephen Ball, where large quantities are manufactured yearly.

\*This was a poor kind of ore, found in marshy lands. The iron was washed down in a soluble form, and precipitated by evaporation of the water. It was so brittle as to be called "cob" iron. Tools made from this ore were necessarily large and clumsy and apt to break vexatiously, and thus stop a day's work.





OLD HOMESTEAD OF REV. PETER WHITNEY, NORTHBOROUGH, MASS.  
(The historian of Worcester County. Built in 1780.)



At this time, according to Mr. Whitney's sketch, Northborough was, —

"A great resort from all neighboring towns to the corn and saw mills, to the fulling-mill and forge and to the blacksmiths for their work of various kinds, as well as to the shops and stores."

The same authority gives an amusing illustration of the knowledge of mechanics existing at that time. He speaks of a notable mechanical contrivance in Northborough: A man named Maj. Holloway Taylor (at the "George Williams" place), had actually conducted water from a spring on a hill to his barn, by means of bored logs (!), laid deep enough under ground to enable the plow to pass above them; and lest any one should doubt his veracity, and thus injure his reputation as a minister, he explains that water may be made to run up and down hill, provided one does not endeavor to raise it above the source from which it proceeded.

The tanning and currying business has been carried on in the south part of this town by three generations of a very marked and influential family. As early as the year 1778, Isaac Davis came from the town of Rutland, Mass., for the purpose of giving instruction in the art of tanning leather to certain young men. He lived at first in what is known as the "old Ben Fay place," in Westborough. Concluding to stay, he carried on a prosperous business until his death, when it descended to his sons, — "Col. Joe" and "Master Phin," as they were familiarly called — by whom it was greatly extended and increased. Hides were purchased by them throughout all this region, from Rhode Island and from foreign countries. They also carried on the manufacture of boots and shoes quite extensively, putting out the work as the custom then was. Dr. Allen, in his history (1826) states that their annual sales of leather amounted to \$20,000. After their death the business was carried on to some extent by Mr. George C. Davis, until within a few years of his death.

The business of carding wool by machinery was introduced into town by Dea. Seth Grout, who came to town about the year 1800, and at first carried on the manufacture of nails in the old iron-foundry on the site of the bone-mill of Mr. Root; soon, however, changing to the above-mentioned branch of industry in which he continued until the year 1813.

The year 1814 marks a new era in the manufacturing history of Northborough. Amidst great opposition, a stock company, called the Northborough Manufacturing Company, was formed in this place for the purpose of making cotton and woolen cloth. The privilege now owned by Mr. D. F. Wood, was purchased, and a mill was erected at a total expense of about \$30,000. Dr. Allen (1826) states that this mill manufactured eighty thousand yards of cloth annually. This enterprise did not thrive, and passed through a number of hands until, in 1866, it was purchased by Mr. D. F. Wood, under whose management and that of his son, it has been very profitable. The lower mill was built of brick, in 1832-33, by the brothers Phineas, Joseph and Isaac



Davis, at a cost of \$30,000. The business was carried on and finally owned by the last named gentleman. After various vicissitudes this property was finally purchased by Messrs. C. T. Chapin & Son, who at first manufactured cotton cloth, but after a severe fire in 1869, they commenced the manufacture of satinets, since which time the business has been very prosperous. These two mills of Messrs. Woods and Chapin constitute at the present time perhaps the principal manufacturing interest of Northborough. They each employ from seventy-five to one hundred hands, and the monthly pay-roll of each is about \$2,000. They each manufacture different varieties of cloth, the production of each averaging about ten thousand yards per week, more or less, according to the value of the cloth made and the briskness of the market. They are each supplied with powerful steam-engines, and with abundant means for extinguishing fire should it arise.

The comb manufacture in Northborough was commenced by Messrs. Haynes & Bush, in 1839, and for the ten or twelve years following the business was much increased. Some six new firms engaged in it, and comb manufacturing became, for the time being, the prominent industry of the town, giving employment to from one hundred to one hundred and fifty persons. At the present time this business is carried on to a limited extent by Messrs. Parker, Twitchell & Co.

The manufacture of tortoise-shell jewelry was commenced here in 1860, by Mr. Milo Hildreth, and continued to the present time, with manufacture of horn goods. From fifteen to thirty hands are employed, and a business of from \$20,000 to \$50,000 is done.

Two other firms have recently commenced the manufacture of shell jewelry — Messrs. Yates & Co. and Mr. Walter M. Farwell.

The milk-contracting business was commenced here in 1866, by C. Brigham & Co., and has been continued to the present time. They run a milk-train from Pratt's Junction to South Framingham, stopping at every station, gathering at the present time a little short of one thousand cans daily, selling the same in Boston the next morning.

The corset-stitching business was commenced here in 1877, and is at present carried on by Messrs. Waterman & Meyer of New York city. About fifty girls are employed at the present time, and the intention is to increase the number to seventy-five or one hundred.

Further space will only be taken to say, that there are in town two dry-goods and grocery stores, Messrs. Samuel Wood, Jr., & Co. and Messrs. J. Wadsworth & Co., and a grain and coal store, Messrs. C. Brigham & Co. There is also a national bank, capital, \$100,000; Wilder Bush, president, and A. W. Seaver, cashier.

This sketch may be appropriately closed with a short list of the various citizens of Northborough who have held distinguished civil positions. Many more might be added if greater space were available.

John Davis, LL. D., born in Northborough, Jan. 13, 1787, died in Worcester, April 19, 1854. An able lawyer, a member of Congress, and a governor of Massachusetts, 1833-35 and 1840-41. He bore the soubriquet of "Honest John Davis."

Isaac Davis, LL. D., born in Northborough, June 2, 1799, still living, attorney at law in Worcester; member of Massachusetts House and Senate; fourth mayor of the city of Worcester; of the governor's council, 1853-54.

Cyrus Gale, born in Westborough, Oct. 7, 1785, still living; in Massachusetts House of Representatives. 1842-43; of governor's council, 1852-53.

Milo Hildreth, born in Townsend, Mass., Aug. 17, 1824; in Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1858; in Massachusetts Senate 1865; of the governor's council in 1872; retired from the council in 1875.

# NORTHBRIDGE.

BY REV. ABIJAH P. MARVIN.

## CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL CHARACTER—INCORPORATION—EARLY MINISTERS—FEELING IN THE REVOLUTION—LATER DEVELOPMENT—LOCAL INDUSTRIES—BOOT AND SHOE TRADE—COL. PAUL WHITIN—INCREASE AND PROSPERITY OF THE TOWN.

THE town of Northbridge was incorporated July 14, 1772. It was originally within the bounds of Mendon. When Uxbridge was incorporated, in 1727, June 27, Northbridge formed the northern part of that town. It was then about five miles in length and four in width. The boundary lines have since been changed in some places, but the size of the town has not been materially altered. It contains from sixteen to twenty square miles of land and water. The boundaries are as follows: On the north by Grafton; north-east by Upton; south by Uxbridge; and west by Sutton. The centre of the town is eleven miles from Worcester court-house by direct line. Its latitude is  $42^{\circ} 8'$ . The distance from Whitinsville to Worcester by the Providence and Worcester Railroad is not far from sixteen miles. In old times the great road from Boston to Connecticut passed through Mendon, Northbridge and Oxford, and the road from Providence passed through Northbridge.

The Blackstone River runs the whole length of the town on the north-eastern side, and about a mile from the border. Mumford River and several natural ponds and great reservoirs water the south-west section of the town. These flow easterly to Whitinsville and to the railroad station, about midway of the southern line of the town. The borders of these rivers and ponds are intervals, meadow or level upland, but the larger part of the town is hilly. The whole tract west of the Blackstone and north of the Mumford, and the whole length of the section east of the main river, are considerably elevated, and in parts quite rocky. The soil is of average fertility, and rewards diligent and skilful labor. Whitney said, in 1793, that there were "no stagnant waters or ponds in the town," but it was "finely watered by springs, streams and rivers." He wrote also that the "lands in general are high, the air is salubrious, and the inhabitants have been blessed with great health from the first settlement of the



place." Since then large reservoirs have been formed in the south-west of the town, but they have had no perceptible effect on the healthfulness of the region.

The geological formation is termed gneissic, and large quantities of good granite have been quarried in times past. The yield is still profitable, and, being near the railway, the cost of transportation is reasonable. Formerly, iron-ore was found in spots; there was a furnace in what is now Whitinsville, near the present grist-mill, before the year 1729. The "old forge" stood on the site of the present brick mill, but there was a still older one a little east of that place.

The incorporation of the town grew out of the religious wants of the people. Says Rev. Lewis F. Clark, in his Discourse: "Most of the people residing here had been in the habit of attending meeting in Uxbridge. But on account of their great distance from the place of worship, they desired to be incorporated as a separate town, so that they might have a church organization and the ordinances of the gospel by themselves." Col. John Spring, father of Rev. Dr. Spring of Newburyport, and grandfather of the late Rev. Dr. Gardiner Spring of New York, headed the petition to the General Court. The people clearly showed their estimate of religious institutions by their action in town meeting. Seven out of nine articles in the warrant had reference to a house of worship. Early in 1773 it was voted "to hire some suitable person or persons to preach." For a year or two the meetings were held in private houses. In 1774 the meeting-house was built in the centre. The pews, or "pew-spots" as they were called, that is, places where pews might be placed, were sold at auction, Feb. 24, 1775, to sixteen purchasers, on whom the chief burden of sustaining public worship was laid. The war of the Revolution soon absorbed public attention, and taxed severely the resources of the people; but during all that period it is on record that "they never neglected to make provision for their own religious instruction." In the warrant for a town meeting, which was held nine days previous to the Declaration of Independence, there were two articles of historical importance. The first was "to see if the town will vote to support the Continental Congress with their lives and fortunes, if they should declare the American Colonies independent of Great Britain"; and the other was to see "how much money they will grant and raise for the support of the Gospel this present year."

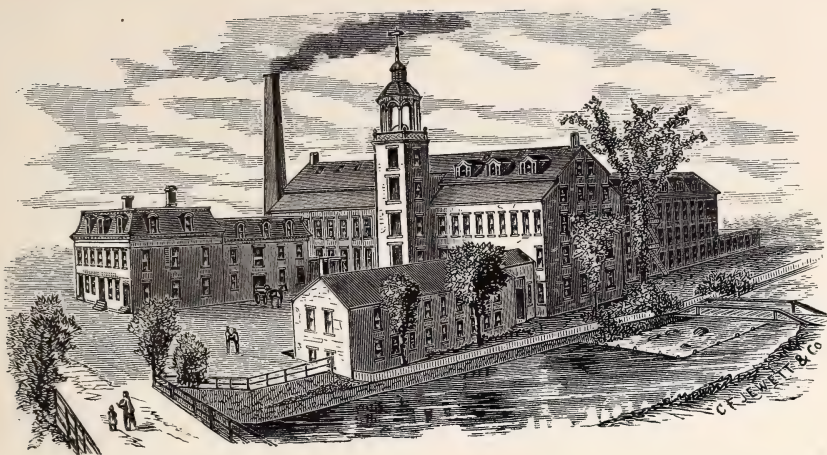
During the first nine years of the town's existence there was no church organization, and no settled minister. The Rev. Aaron Bliss, a graduate of Yale College in 1766, was the preacher in 1780, and probably in a part of the year before and the year after. In July, 1780, it was voted "to grant forty-five pounds, silver money, to pay Mr. Bliss for preaching." On the 6th of June, 1782, the church was organized with eight members. Five were males and three were females. The day was observed as a special season of fasting, humiliation and prayer. The new church held a meeting, eleven days

later, at the house of Maj. David Batcheller, and then "proceeded and chose Mr. John Crane for their elect pastor by a unanimous vote." The town was notified of the choice, and in legal meeting gave its concurrence. Mr. Crane was ordained on the 25th of June, 1783, at the age of twenty-seven, and he continued in the pastorate of the church and people nearly fifty years. In 1832, January 5, he sent the following note to the church: "Brethren of the church, I now resign my office as pastor and teacher, and relinquish the ministry in this place forever." Dr. Crane was born in Norton, March 26, 1756. His family belonged to the Society of Friends, and his early training was in accordance with their tenets and habits of life. He was graduated at Harvard College in 1780, and was the only one of his class who entered the ministry. The Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Emmons of Franklin was his theological instructor. Says the Rev. Mr. Clark: "He was regarded by his people, during the whole period of his ministry, with the greatest veneration and affection." Social, companionable, and usually very cheerful, yet he was sometimes subject to great depression of spirits. His tender sympathies and his conversation, which was both pleasant and instructive, made him a welcome visitor in the families of his parish. He could turn a joke and drop a witty repartee in such a way as to reprove without wounding, and yet not detract from the dignity of his office. In addition to his pastoral duties, he received students into his family, where they were either prepared for college or for teaching. More than a hundred in all were under his tuition and guidance at different times, some of whom became men of distinction.

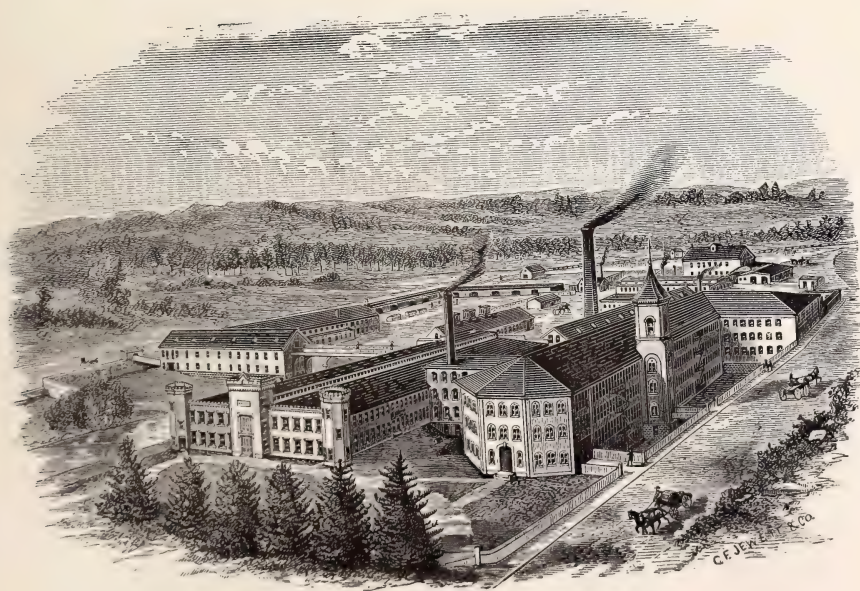
Dr. Crane was an excellent pastor, as well as an able and instructive preacher. Without the graces of oratory, his sermons made a permanent impression. One of his peculiarities was that when he said a pointed or severe thing, either in the pulpit or in private, he "uttered it with closed eyes." One who heard him more than twenty years, said. "He was unlike any other preacher with whom I was ever acquainted; I can even now remember many of his sermons, and the manner of his treatment of his subjects, although preached more than fifty years ago." There were several periods of special religious interest during his ministry, and, in the last year of his pastorate, fifty-four were added to the church by profession of their faith. He was dismissed on the 14th of March, 1832, by a council, and on the 1st of September, 1836, in the eighty-first year of his age, he was called to his reward. His long period of service as a faithful minister, and the influence he exerted in promoting all the interests of the community would justify a more extended notice.

As the town began its municipal history in the period when the Revolution was brewing, so the people partook largely of the spirit of their patriotic countrymen. The first fourteen town meetings were held in private houses. The first meeting, which considered matters pertaining to the coming outbreak, was held Aug. 25, 1774, when a committee was chosen "to correspond with





WHITINSVILLE COTTON MILLS, WHITINSVILLE, MASS.



THE WHITIN MACHINE WORKS, WHITINSVILLE, MASS.





other committees concerning public affairs as occasion shall call for." At the same meeting it was voted, that "David Batcheller be chose to provide for a town stock of ammunition, viz., one barrel of powder, and lead and flints answerable to it." It was also voted not to import or consume English goods. The last town meeting warned in his majesty, King George's name, was dated Jan. 10, 1775. The act of calling a meeting of the town, without the royal authority, may now seem an insignificant affair, but then it was an act of daring. It was a declaration of independence before the declaration of the Colonial Congress, and it meant renunciation of allegiance to the king of England. From the opening of the Revolution till the autumn of 1781, when the victory at Yorktown made an end of the war, the business in town meetings related in large measure to the needs of the public service. It was voted to pay men who enlisted in the army; to provide provisions and clothing for their own men in the field, and to aid those who had hired men to take their place in the scenes of war. Labor was performed on the farms of those who were absent. The burdens of the war were equalized as far as possible. At one meeting the vote was "to raise 40 pounds to pay for shirts, shoes and stockings furnished by the selectmen for the soldiers in the Continental service." At another time money was raised to pay four men "for carrying provisions to Roxbury at the time of the alarm at Lexington." Sixteen men were in the service, in the year 1775, in addition to those who hurried to Lexington, and soon returned home, when the alarm was over, and the army was being organized. The town had its proportion in the field during the war. Some were three years' men. John Hopkins, Amos White and others died in the army.

In some cases when a man was drafted, his son, under military age, went as a substitute. Israel Taft enlisted in this way when less than sixteen years old. "He urged his parents to permit him to take his father's place, and was in the service at West Point, and at other places on the Hudson." The number of men in the army during the war was one hundred and twenty-eight, some of whom were in the vicinity of Boston before the British evacuated; some were in the expedition to Canada; some were at Ticonderoga; some in the northern army at the time of Burgoyne's surrender; some at New York, Peekskill, and West Point, and others in other places guarding stores, or contending with the foe. Among these were Capt. David Batcheller, Capt. Josiah Ward, and Lieut. James Fletcher, whose descendants have been prominent in the town.

When Whitney published his history in 1793, there was a Baptist Society in the town, consisting of about ten families, but "destitute of any settled teacher." There were also twelve families of Quakers, whose descendants have maintained their organization to the present time. They built a meeting-house in 1776, and a new one in 1804, still in use by them, near Blackstone River. At the date above given, the people of the town subsisted chiefly by farming, and were industrious and flourishing, and it was said that there was "hardly an idle

person, or a tavern haunter in the place." Farming continued to be the chief employment for another generation, though the trades common to that period of our history were pursued. Carpenters, blacksmiths and masons are always a necessity, and it is always convenient to have them near at hand.

As the history of Northbridge, since the era of the Revolution, is chiefly the history of the rise and extension of various branches of business, considerable space will be given to that subject. As stated already, the first business in the iron line was at a shop in what is now Whitinsville, which shop stood east of the site of the brick-mill. This was started as early as 1729. Here wrought iron was made from scrap and pig iron. It is not known whether this business was kept up without interruption, but it is known that it was in operation about the time of the incorporation of the town, in 1772, and the manufacture of iron was continued till about 1815, when the works were owned by James Fletcher and Paul Whitin, Sr., under the firm-name of Whitin & Fletcher. They bought the establishment of Ezra Wood of Upton, who was the father of Mrs. Fletcher.

A foundry, located at Northbridge Centre, was operated as early as 1790, by a man named Lathrop, where pots, kettles, andirons and sad-irons were made. At a later day the making of axes was pursued at the same place.

The cotton-spinning business was begun in Whitinsville as early as 1809, when the Northbridge Manufacturing Company was organized through the influence of Col. Paul Whitin, who had erected the building, and procured a portion of the machinery. The company commenced in a building which is now use as a saw-mill and wood shop, and has been moved from its original location to make room for the foundry. The establishment had successive owners, and only moderate success until it was purchased, in 1831, by Paul Whitin & Sons.

The Blackstone River, in the east part of the town, furnishes abundant water power, which was early put to use. At first grain and saw mills were set up, but early in the present century the making of woollen goods was commenced at what is now Rockdale. Not long after—1814—the Northbridge Cloth Company was chartered. This was situated at Rockdale, and was owned by Jesse Eddy and William Kendrick. The property was sold, in 1851, to Sylvanus Holbrook, who controlled it until August, 1851, when a large portion was destroyed by fire. In 1851, the property remaining, and also that at Riverdale, was bought by P. Whitin & Sons. The late Hon. Daniel Waldo of Worcester became one of the principal stockholders, and the late John Waldo Lincoln, brother of Gen. Levi Lincoln, was at one time the agent of the corporation. A linseed-oil mill had previously stood near the site of the Riverdale factory. Both establishments, at Rockdale and Riverdale, came, about 1820, into the possession of Sylvanus Holbrook, who manufactured cotton goods for many years. During his ownership both mills had about five thousand spindles running.

Regard to the order of time leads us back to the origin of several other

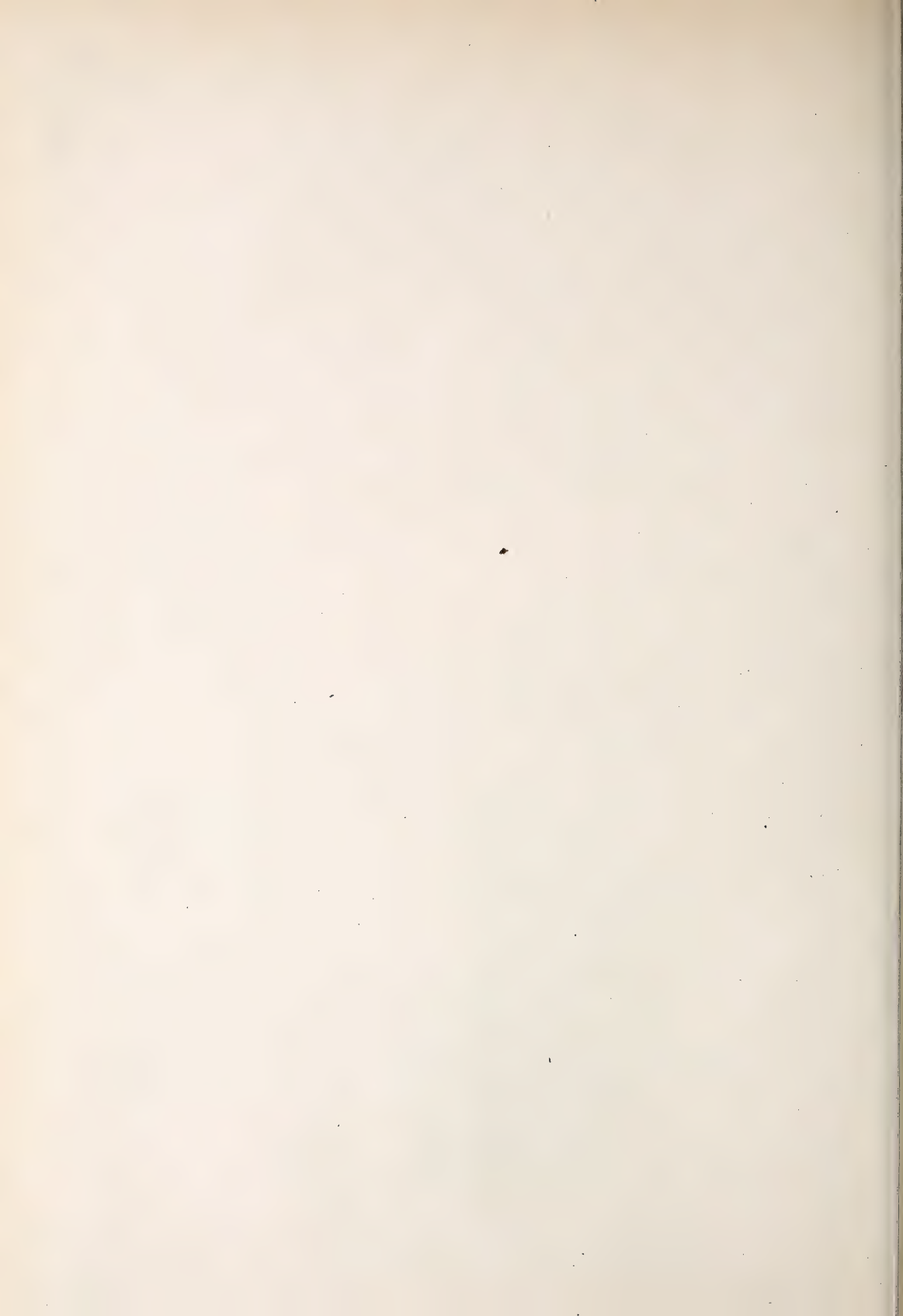




"LINWOOD MILL," WHITIN BROTHERS, WHITINSVILLE, MASS.



PAUL WHITIN M'F'G CO.'S MILL (ROCKDALE), NORTHBRIDGE, MASS.



branches of business, before proceeding with the great increase of population, production and wealth in Whitinsville.

There have been several tanners and curriers in the town, in former times, from the opening of the century down to the year 1861. In the Centre, Oliver Adams was engaged in this industry previous to 1805, when John Hall took the establishment, and conducted it several years. On the east side of the river, Joshua Congdon was engaged in the same business between Rockdale and Riverdale, previous to 1825. Charles and Derby Bigelow were engaged in the currying business at Adams' Corner before 1832, after which David Mowry used the same premises a few years. He was followed by Robinson & Rice, who employed a few hands, and continued in partnership until 1843, when they dissolved, and worked in separate places. Two or three others continued the business in the town until 1868.

The coopering business was followed, many years ago, by David Batcheller and others. They were in the habit of making as many barrels as could be carried on a large ox-wagon, and then sending them to Boston, Providence and other cities and towns for sale.

During many years, the boot and shoe business was engaged in by a large number of persons, though few, if any of them, had such large establishments as are common now in the towns where the business flourishes. It is related of the earlier shoemakers that it was their custom to "go about to the houses of the families, for whom they proposed to work, carrying their 'kit' in saddle-bags, using an inverted wash-tub for a bench, and a stool for a seat, shoe up that family, then tramp for the next customer." And here it may be amusing to remind young readers that shoes were much less worn by former generations. Some boys still enjoy the pleasant freedom of going barefoot in summer; but, in old times, it was uncommon to see a boy in country towns wearing shoes in the warm season, and the warm season was drawn out at great length, and extended weeks beyond the first frosts of autumn. Moreover, it was a part of the economy of older persons — men and even women — to do without shoes a part of the year; and on Sundays it was the custom for children and youth of either sex to walk barefoot towards the meeting-house, on Sunday morning, till they drew near the immediate neighborhood, when they put on stockings and shoes before meeting the crowd or entering the sanctuary. Returning, they doffed shoes and stockings when far enough on their way, and reached home in the guise in which they started. "Others would wear a poorer pair until they arrived nearly to the meeting; then change for the best."

Passing by the time when boots and shoes were made for *custom work* only, and coming down to the date when they were manufactured to be sold to dealers by the case, it appears that Cheney Taft began the business about 1810. His shop was in the old centre of the town. He made what was in those days styled "nigger shoes" in the summer, and in the winter went South to sell



them. This was in the evil times when the word negro was spelled with two gs, since which time there has been a greater revolution in politics than in business. Other workers in this line were : John W. Slocomb, Joseph Leland, the brothers Josiah, Welcome and Jacob Adams, and Francis Hemenway. The latter made men's brogans and women's shoes for the trade as well as custom boots. In 1824, he began to employ hands, — four or five in his shop, besides others outside. From this time — about 1825 — the business was carried on in different parts of the town by many persons, none of whom did a large amount of work ; but the aggregate production was quite large. Some of the manufacturers had shops, and others worked in their own dwelling-houses. As long ago as 1837, Barber, in his "Historical Collections," states that "there were six hundred pairs of boots and fifty-three thousand five hundred pairs of shoes manufactured," valued at fifty thousand dollars. The males employed were seventy-five, and the females were twenty. This business was followed by many in a moderate way down to the year 1860, when it was in few hands. The principal manufacturer at this time was Joel Bachelor, who commenced in 1827, and continued the business nearly fifty years. He constantly increased the quantity of goods manufactured, and built, in 1867, a large factory, in which, in the year 1871, was turned out a large amount of work. The number of pairs of shoes for the year was seventeen thousand two hundred and eighty ; the number of pairs of boots for the year was ninety-five thousand. The value of the annual product of boots and shoes was \$368,480. By the State census of 1875, this business has been reduced in amount.

But the business men of the town, by way of eminence, belong to the Whitin family, of whom the head was Col. Paul Whitin. From him and his enterprise the village of Whitinsville had its origin and name. Paul Whitin, or Whiting, as the name was originally, was born in Roxbury, Dec. 3, 1767. He was the son of Nathaniel and Sarah (Draper) Whiting. Why the final letter in the name was dropped is not known. It could not have been because the name was not respectable, as it has been honorable in all generations of New England history. His father died when he was quite young, and his mother married James Prentice, who lived in Northbridge. In boyhood, he was apprenticed to a blacksmith named Jesse White. His opportunities for education must have been very limited, as it is said that his whole attendance at school did not probably exceed six months. But he could read and think. He had a sound mental constitution, though his physical system was weak when his apprenticeship was finished, and for several years later. He had a strong desire to learn, and his mind fixed upon that which was useful. Says the Rev. Lewis Clark : "He struggled with and overcame difficulties to which most would have yielded. By perseverance and a diligent improvement of those intervals of labor that many young men spend in idleness, he acquired a good knowledge of those branches of study necessary for the successful prosecution of business. A book for aiding him in acquiring a correct use of

language was always by him. He was as familiar with this as with the tools of his shop." This was an excellent method of discipline, as it led to precision of thought as well as of expression. By degrees, he gained the public confidence, which increased during his whole life. He was chosen town clerk at the age of twenty-eight years, and was continued in the office thirteen years in succession. His services in other town offices were often sought and obtained. Though of a quiet and undemonstrative turn, and averse to show and parade, he was an excellent military officer, and rose through the successive grades to the rank of colonel. He was a justice of the peace, and was often urged to be a candidate for the General Court, but business engagements induced him to decline. A proof of his industry and economy is seen in the fact that, whatever time he spent in military or official duties, he always made up by extra labor in his regular business. Such a man was sure to succeed in life, provided his life was prolonged. To those who are prudent, industrious and prayerful, the road to prosperity and eminence is as straight and plain as the "road to the mill." Such was the character and such the success of Paul Whitin.

The qualities which secured success to Mr. Whitin made him a useful member of society. His influence did not promote vice and immorality, but fostered industry, frugality, education, Sabbath observance, and all the institutions of religion. And his wife was fitted to aid and encourage him in everything which developed his own character, or was calculated to build up the community. She was the daughter of Col. James Fletcher, one of the leading men of the town. It is related that, when young Whitin sought her hand, the suit was not encouraged by her father, on the ground of his feeble health. "He will not be able to support a wife," said parental wisdom. "Then I will support him," was the spirited reply; and she was as good as her word. Though the husband was amply able to support wife and family, the wife aided him in every way to achieve success and reputation. She was his counsellor in all his affairs; and when he was taken away, and his four sons succeeded to an extensive business, her advice was sought and followed in all matters of importance, whether in relation to the family, or to business, or to objects of benevolence. The description of the wise and good woman in the closing chapter of Proverbs found a remarkable exemplification in her: "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her. . . . Her children arise up and call her blessed."

Paul Whitin followed the business to which he was bred, and by steady attention to the calling of a blacksmith acquired a competence, brought up a family, and added greatly to the growth and general welfare of the town. Two of his sons, Paul, Jr., and John C., were taken into partnership in 1826. This firm was engaged in cotton manufactures. Soon after, John C. Whitin invented a picker which much facilitated the manufacture of cotton into cloth, and enabled the firm of Paul Whitin & Sons to compete successfully with



others in cotton-spinning. Col. Whitin died Feb. 8, 1831, in the sixty-fourth year of his age, by which time the business was firmly established. The firm-name was continued, Charles P. and James Whitin becoming members.

In 1847 the first large machine-shop of John C. Whitin was erected. Its dimensions are as follows: Length, three hundred and six feet; width, one hundred and two feet. The new machine-shop was built in 1864, and is three hundred and ninety feet in length by seventy in width. Taken together, they constitute one of the largest and most complete establishments in the State for the manufacture of machinery.

The old firm was dissolved Jan. 1, 1864, when the business was divided. Paul Whitin took the cotton business at Rockdale and Riverdale; John C. Whitin took the machine manufacturing; Charles P. Whitin took the cotton-mill in Whitinsville, and James Whitin took the unimproved privilege at Linwood, near the railroad station, in addition to the mills at North Uxbridge. The amount of work done in each of these establishments is very extensive. In the cotton business the power-looms employed are seven hundred and four. The spindles in use are thirty-three thousand seven hundred and ninety-two. In machines and machinery, the capital invested, according to the State census of 1875, was \$605,000, and the value of the machinery made was \$900,750. By this is meant the product of the machine-shops in one year, and not the value of all the machinery in the town. In this branch of business Northbridge leads all the towns in the county. The two cities, Worcester and Fitchburg, exceed it in the amount of capital invested, but in the value of machinery produced Northbridge stands next to Worcester. The increase in the currency value of manufactures in the town, from 1865 to 1875, including the total products of the manufacturing business, was almost incredible. In 1865 the value was \$912,310; in 1875 the value was \$1,521,072. The increase, therefore, was \$608,762 in ten years. The advance made in the cotton business between 1837 and 1875 is shown by the following figures. In 1837 nine thousand spindles were running, and cotton goods were made of the value of \$136,750; in 1875 the number of spindles was thirty-three thousand seven hundred and ninety-four, and the cotton goods made were valued at \$418,697.

The population of Northbridge in 1776 was four hundred and eighty-one. During the next twenty-five years the increase was less than one hundred. In 1830 it was but a little more than doubled, being one thousand and fifty-three. The increase was rapid during the next twenty years, being two thousand two hundred and thirty in 1850. At the end of the next decade the population was two thousand six hundred and thirty-three; and in 1875 it had increased to four thousand and thirty. The larger part of the increase has been in the village of Whitinsville, which shows the marks of thrift on every hand. The buildings are comparatively new, and are kept in good repair. The shops and factories are constructed on improved models, and supplied with the best



machinery. The dwellings have an air of neatness and comfort. Some of them are elegant and splendid, with capacious grounds, and gardens in the highest state of cultivation. The public buildings are a credit to the place, and betoken a healthful interest in education and the worship of God. The influence of Paul Whitin, Sr., who gave the original impulse to the business of the place, has been felt as a constant force. His four sons enlarged the business, but kept it under the same prudent and beneficent management, whereby the community was a partner in all the advantages gained by the proprietors. As years advanced, sons and sons-in-law of the third generation have come on the stage of active life, and become participators in the various branches of manufacture. The whole process has been a growth from small beginnings to the present magnitude, without undue haste, but with a steady annual progress, evincing a rare combination of enterprise and prudence.

It would seem, from an inspection of the town and a survey of its water-power, that its growth must be mainly in the villages on the river and the railroad; viz., Rockdale, Riverdale and Linwood. And as the property in these localities is very much under the control of the members of the family above-named, the gradual development of all the capabilities of the valley of the Blackstone, within the limits of the town, may be expected. As the villages increase, the natural effect will be to raise the value of land in the Centre, by furnishing a market for all the products of the farms and gardens. The quarries are near for the convenience of builders, and thus many circumstances combine to prophesy a prosperous future to this ancient town.

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## CHAPTER II.

CHURCH HISTORY RESUMED — SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION — THE REBELLION,  
AND THE ACTION OF THE TOWN — MANUFACTURES, MILLS AND FACTORIES  
— PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

RESUMING the ecclesiastical history of the town, we are led, in the first place, to trace the fortunes of the old church and society in the Centre. The Rev. Samuel H. Fletcher, who succeeded Dr. Crane in the pastorate, was installed March 14, 1832, and dismissed at the end of two years. His successor, the Rev. Charles Forbush, was installed June 4, 1834, but his brief pastorate was terminated by his death on the 9th of September, 1838. In 1855, says the Rev. Lewis F. Clark, "the old meeting-house, which had stood for half a century on the highest point of land for miles around, was taken down, and the present edifice erected on a site less conspicuous, but more easy of access." In 1839, April 3, the Rev. Lewis Pennel commenced his ministry, which lasted three

years and eleven days. The Rev. E. Demond supplied the church from 1842 to 1845. On the 5th of November, 1845, the Rev. William Bates was ordained as pastor, and continued in the office about twelve years. He was dismissed in 1857, November 23, and died in 1859. Temporary supplies have occupied the pulpit the last twelve years. These are their names: Rev. Messrs. George B. Safford, Hiram Day, Sylvester Hine, Calvin Terry, D. W. Richardson, W. Hazlewood, Thomas S. Norton and James Wells. The present acting pastor is Rev. John T. Crumrine, and the church reports fifty-six members.

During the last years of his ministry Dr. Crane occasionally preached in a school-house in what is now Whitinsville. Other ministers conducted the services at times, and in 1833 a conviction grew up that something more was needed to "meet the religious wants of the people." In consequence, a Sabbath-school was started in March, and its meetings were held earlier in the day than the regular worship in the Centre. Another session was held in the afternoon. On the 2d of February, 1834, some of the members of the church living in the village, sought the concurrence of the church in an effort to establish "church ordinances in that place, should circumstances in the providence of God seem to require it." The church was not willing to part with any of its members, fearing that its own ability to maintain public worship would be crippled. A movement was then made by persons outside of the society, representing, as they said, a "population of nearly three hundred, a large proportion of whom do not attend public worship on the Sabbath." A council was called by a "number of professors of religion in the village, belonging to different churches," which council met on the 17th of April, 1834. After hearing the case, the council adjourned till the 28th, when the enterprise was sanctioned and a church was soon formed. A chapel had been built in 1833, and religious services were held in it from the time of its dedication, January, 1834, until a meeting-house was erected. The Rev. Michael Burdett was engaged to preach for one year. The church was organized July 31, with thirty-three members. Mr. Burdett was installed as pastor April 15, 1835, and dismissed April 29, 1841. The Rev. Lewis F. Clark was ordained and installed June 1, 1842. At his installation the church had eighty-four members. Mr. Clark died on the 18th of October, 1870, after a pastorate of more than twenty-eight years. He was a good, kind, able and godly man, all the years of whose ministerial life were filled with usefulness. "He never sought another place, and never took a dollar for supplying on the Sabbath any other pulpit." He loved his people, "and was contented to stay with them; they loved him, and were satisfied with his work." Under his guidance the church became "large and influential, abounding in love, and the grace of liberality." The Rev. John R. Thurston was installed as his successor April 20, 1871, and still continues in the pastoral office. The number of church members is two hundred and sixty, and the annual contributions for benevolent objects amount to over ten thousand

dollars. The deacons have been Alvan Leland, John C. Whitin, Horace Armsby, Stephen F. Bachelor, P. Whitin Dudley, H. A. Goodell and William H. Whitin. The second and three last are still in office. The Sabbath school, superintended by Dea. William H. Whitin, numbers two hundred and seventy-five.

The first Methodist meetings in Northbridge were held in private houses, many years ago, in the neighborhood known as Quaker Street, and vicinity, and also in the school-house at Plummer's Corner. Northbridge was the centre of a circuit which included surrounding towns. In 1850 services were begun in Whitinsville, in a hall on Railroad Avenue, and the Methodist church was organized on the 23d of June in that year. The official members at that time were Smith Bruce, Amos White, Charles Taylor, William Smith, Libeus Leach, A. E. Batchelor and J. H. Cole. A new and spacious house of worship was erected in 1875, and was dedicated October 2 of that year. The cost of the site, the church and the parsonage was nearly \$20,000. The pastor now in charge is Rev. Seth C. Carey.

As business and population increased in Whitinsville and the other villages in the town, the foreign-born element grew by degrees, until, in 1875, as appears by the State census, there were natives of Ireland and Canada, to the number of one thousand three hundred and six. As a large proportion of these had been trained in the Roman Catholic faith, they naturally felt the need of religious ordinances in accordance with their views. Public worship was held in different places until 1870, when the Catholic church was erected in Whitinsville, bearing the title of St. Patrick.

A United Presbyterian church was organized, Oct. 3, 1861. It worships in the chapel formerly occupied by the Village Congregational Society for the same purpose. The present pastor is Rev. J. L. Thompson.

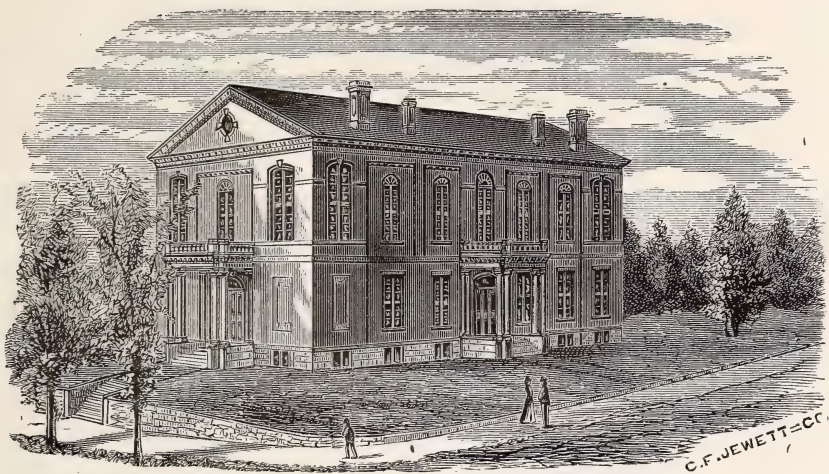
The education of their children was considered of the highest importance by the first settlers of Northbridge. After the town was organized, and the officers were chosen, two votes were passed; one was to provide for preaching, and the other was for the support of a school or schools. Sixteen pounds were appropriated for this object. Here was provision for secular and religious instruction. The minister was the servant of the town as well as the school teacher; both received their support from the town. The church and the school combined, was the educational apparatus of the people. No school-houses were built during the first quarter of a century, or till about the year 1795, as appears by a report of the school committee made in the Centennial year — 1876 — but the schools were kept in private houses, or other buildings, in different parts of the town. The terms were only two or three months in length, and were often kept by the same master, who went from place to place, and sometimes had in his school the elder pupils from all sections of the town. Besides his pay in cash, which was not large, the teacher boarded round in the families which had scholars in the schools. The branches pursued were such



as were common in all district schools in those early days. All the children were drilled in reading, spelling and writing. Penmanship was an art, and some teachers were famous, in a narrow circle, as penmen, and for their skill in making good goose-quill pens. They were required to set copies which the scholars could safely follow as models. The introduction of steel pens and copper-plate copies has been a great relief to many modern teachers. Arithmetic was *the study* in the primitive schools. A boy that did not know enough to keep accounts and cast interest, was not fit to take care of himself. Geography and grammar came in by degrees, when Morse and Murray had provided improved text-books in those important branches. It was many years, however, before a body of teachers was raised up who were competent to parse or analyze a sentence of more than ordinary complexity. But in the words of the committee: "While the education of the school was so meagre, their general culture in morals and manners was strongly inculcated by the stern Puritanism of those times. Whatever we may choose to say in comparison favorable to modern schools, we must acknowledge their supremacy in the development of moral character, the virtues of honesty and truthfulness, which are an essential requisite for a useful and loyal citizen."

A few citations from the town records will let us see into the life of the people more than a hundred years ago. At a meeting held Sept. 21, 1772, after voting to raise sixteen pounds for schooling, and three pounds for district charges, a committee was chosen to "squadron the district of Northbridge." The committee divided the town, which seems to have been a school district, into seven squadrons, naming the families in each squadron. At a meeting held Feb. 1, 1773, it was voted to "divide the school money according to the number of children in each squadron." In 1784, there were six squadrons. In 1786 forty pounds were raised for schooling. The same sum was continued for several years. In 1795, April 16, it was voted "to build a school-house in each of the school districts in the town." By this time the law of the State allowed the towns to be districted, which, in the opinion of Horace Mann, was bad policy. After long trial, the State has returned to the old plan of making the whole town a district for school purposes. In 1796, further action was taken in relation to school-houses, which resulted in their erection. In 1797, the sum of \$133.33 was raised for schooling, which was the grant till 1801, when the town voted to raise \$150. The same sum was raised in the year following, and Paul Aldrich, Nathaniel Adams and Jabez Wing were chosen a committee to regulate school districts.

Such were the feeble beginnings in the way of common-school education in Northbridge. A few figures will show the contrast between then and now. In 1850, the population of the town was two thousand one hundred and ten; the appropriation for schools was \$1,000; the length of the schools was five months and sixteen days, and the sum appropriated for each scholar was about \$2.32. In 1874-5, the population was four thousand and thirty; the appro-



MEMORIAL BUILDING, WHITINSVILLE, MASS.





priation for schools was \$7,350; the length of the schools was eight months and nineteen days, and the sum appropriated for each scholar was \$8.87. In the year 1877-8, the appropriation for schools was \$7,850; the length of the schools was nine months, and the sum appropriated for each child was \$10.66. These figures place Northbridge high in the list of public-spirited towns. There are in the town sixteen schools, including a grammar and a high school. The cost of the high school in the year 1878-9 was \$1,550, and the attendance was about fifty pupils. In relation to this, the committee report that "the establishment of such a school has paid all its cost in the increased number of educated persons, and the stimulus it has presented to the pupils of lower grades to increased study, and a better preparation to enter it." In addition to the extended curriculum of the schools, attention has been given to drawing and music in some of the schools.

The modern improvement in school-houses is indicative of the growing interest in the education of the young. The school buildings in Northbridge are in line with the general progress. The property of this kind, in the whole town, is valued at about forty thousand dollars. The "four-room" school-house erected in Whitinsville, last year, is furnished with seats for two hundred and twenty-four scholars, but will admit of more if necessary. There is also a good recitation-room, where an assistant may be employed, and "the building contains really five schools. The building is elegant in its outward appearance, and the inside finish is of the best materials. The rooms are large, high, well-lighted, and abundantly supplied with blackboards and apparatus. The cloak-rooms, closets, halls and stairways are large and convenient. There is a good basement with ample play-rooms, and a liberal allowance of yard or lawn around the house. There is complete separation of the sexes in the grounds, and in the building, until they come under the supervision of the teachers." Proper attention has been paid to ventilation and warmth. The grounds have been handsomely graded and surrounded by a suitable fence, in keeping with the plan of the house. In a word, the school-house is an ornament to the village. The money invested in school-houses since 1868, amounts to \$50,000. The committee in charge of the schools in 1878-9, were Messrs. R. R. Clarke, M. D., Edward Bachelor, Josiah Laselle, Arthur F. Whitin, George Benson and William H. Whitin. Dr. Clarke has been a member of the school committee and practically superintendent of schools nearly twenty-five years, and it is largely owing to his zeal and enthusiasm that the schools of the town have been raised to their present high standard.

In the work of suppressing the Rebellion — 1861-65 — the town bore an honorable part. As soon as the news of the firing upon Fort Sumter was received, all hearts were resolved to maintain the supremacy of the national government. The first legal meeting was held May 8, when it was voted to raise "such sums of money as may be required, not exceeding five thousand dollars," for various war purposes. Hazen O. Bean, Jeremiah Robinson,

Joseph Dudley, Luke S. Farnum, and Hiram Wing were joined with the selectmen to carry the vote into effect. The selectmen in that year were William Kendall, Merrick L. Taft, James F. Whitin, John C. Taft and Charles Fowler. Some of these, with the following, served in the remaining years of the war: P. Whitin Dudley, Joel Bachelor, Leander F. Smith, Lewis Armsby, Jeremiah Robinson, Nelson Paine, Stephen F. Bachelor, Davis P. Gray, George W. Rawson, David B. Winter. During the war Hiram Wing was town clerk and treasurer.

In 1862 the selectmen were authorized to pay a bounty of one hundred dollars to each volunteer for three years' service, who should enlist and be credited to the quota of the town. The sum of fifty dollars additional was raised for those already in the field. Other votes raising money for additional volunteers were passed at various meetings in the fall of this year. In 1863, November 3, the town voted "that the families of conscripts, disabled soldiers and those who have died in the service of United States, be placed on the same footing as regards State aid, as the families of volunteers." A vote was passed, April 9, 1864, to "pay a bounty of one hundred and twenty-five dollars to each volunteer enlisting to the quota of the town for three years' service," under a call issued at that time by the President. And, in 1865, after the war was over, August 5, it was voted to "refund the money to all individuals," who had paid money to aid recruiting. According to the figures as given by Gen. Schouler, Northbridge furnished three hundred and eleven men for the war, which was a surplus of seventeen above all demands. Five were commissioned officers. The whole amount of money expended by the town for war purposes, exclusive of State aid, was \$15,407.10. The amount paid for State aid to soldiers' families, was \$12,064.47, making a total of \$27,471.57. A report made to the town by a committee chosen to "collect statistics showing the action of the town in regard to the war," gives a total expense much larger than the above. The estimate of the committee included all the appropriations of the town for war purposes, including State aid, and increased taxation on account of the war, and the voluntary contributions of the people, including the amount raised by the ladies. The summary is as follows:—On account of the war, \$26,034.62; voluntary contributions, \$8,427.91; amounting to \$34,462.53. The estimated increase of the State tax was \$25,000. Sundry persons paid the United States for internal revenue, \$461,311.10. The latter was of course added to the cost of goods manufactured, and, therefore, not a tax on the citizens of the town, except so far as they purchased the goods thus taxed. The whole cost of the war includes, besides the above, the cost of stamps and other indirect expenses. To this must be added the total share of the town in the national debt. The town contained, when the war began, two thousand six hundred and thirty-three inhabitants, and the valuation was \$945,574; from which may be seen what a heavy burden was cheerfully borne by the people of Northbridge.



In addition to the facts given in the preceding pages, the following authentic statements respecting water-power, the dimensions of factories, and their annual product up to date, will be of permanent interest.

In 1826, the Mumford River, on which the works at Whitinsville are located, supplied ten horse-power, but by a system of reservoirs constructed from time to time, this limited power has been increased to three hundred and seventy-five horse-power; and the flowage has been increased from a few acres to over fourteen hundred.

The machine shop, erected in 1847, is three hundred and six feet long by one hundred and two feet wide, two stories high with a basement. The shop, built in 1864, is three hundred and ninety feet in length by seventy feet in width, with an L seventy by seventy feet. The main building and L's are three stories high, with a basement. The capital is \$600,000. The shop has a capacity to employ seven hundred men, and when running full consumes upwards of fifteen tons of pig-iron daily, besides large quantities of wrought iron, steel, brass, &c., in the manufacture of the various machines. The establishment was chartered in 1870, under the name of Whitin Machine Works. John C. Whitin is president, J. Lasell, treasurer, and G. E. Taft, superintendent. The two buildings, including the L's, contain five acres of floor-room, besides twelve thousand square feet for foundry purposes, and fifty thousand square feet for storage.

The Whitinsville Mills were built in 1845. The dimensions are as follows:—one hundred and sixty-two by forty-eight feet, with an L one hundred and eight by forty-eight feet, and a picker-room, fifty by forty-eight feet. The L and picker-room were put up in 1860. The number of spindles is thirteen thousand four hundred. Use annually, fourteen hundred bales, equal to six hundred and eighty thousand pounds, of cotton. Value of products, \$200,000 to \$225,000. Hands employed, about one hundred and sixty.

The Rockdale Mill was erected in 1857. It is one hundred and sixty-six feet by sixty-six feet, with boiler-house forty-one feet by fifty-eight. The Riverdale Mill is two hundred and sixty-four by forty-five feet. The number of spindles in these mills is eighteen thousand two hundred and twenty-four. Pounds of cotton used yearly, seven hundred and ten thousand seven hundred. Number of bales, one thousand four hundred and ninety-four. Annual value of products, \$175,000. Hands employed, two hundred and sixty.

The Linwood Mill was erected in 1866. It is five stories in height with the following dimensions:—one hundred and sixty-four by sixty-six feet, and a picker-room fifty-nine by forty-three feet. The number of spindles is fifteen thousand. The amount of cotton worked up yearly, equals one thousand five hundred and fifty bales, or seven hundred and forty-five thousand pounds. The value of the products is from \$225,000 to \$250,000 annually. Number of hands employed, about one hundred and eighty.

The National Bank was established in 1865. Its capital is \$100,000. Paul



Whitin is president, and H. A. Goodell is cashier. The president of the Savings Bank is John C. Whitin; the treasurer, H. A. Goodell.

The Pine Grove Cemetery was dedicated in 1878. It is the property of a private corporation. The situation, between Whitinsville and Linwood is excellent, and the ground has great capabilities of improvement.

Whitinsville has a lyceum lecture course annually, of a high order, at an expense of about \$12,000, which is defrayed by the sale of tickets.

The "Whitinsville Compendium" serves as a vehicle of local news.

The Memorial Hall, near the centre of Whitinsville, is one of the most costly, spacious and elegant public buildings in the county. It was erected on the family homestead where the sons met to take counsel of their venerated mother, during all the years of her widowhood. It was erected in honor of their parents, at a cost of about \$50,000. It contains, in the high and airy basement, a good-sized hall for town meetings, and all necessary rooms for heating-apparatus and fuel. On the first floor are rooms for various town officers, a library of several thousand volumes, and a reading-room. The second floor is occupied by a spacious hall, with platform, gallery and ante-rooms. Here a large audience can be comfortably seated. The building is most thoroughly constructed of handsome brick and granite work, with hard-wood finish. In size, shape, finish and location the Memorial Hall is a splendid structure, and worthy of its noble design.

The "Whitinsville Social Library" arose from a bequest of one hundred dollars, left by Miss Sarah Fletcher in aid of such a library as the town might create. The work was placed in charge of a committee of the town, viz., Rev. L. F. Clark, Horace Armsby, and Leander Gorton, who formed a constitution; and the library was opened in the chapel, once a week, to all persons paying one dollar each, annually. There were then two hundred and fifty volumes, and eighty-three subscribers. This action of the town was Dec. 10, 1844. In 1860 another legacy of five hundred dollars was given by Ezra W. Fletcher, to which two hundred and fifty dollars were added by subscription. The society voted Feb. 21, 1876, to make the library free, if the town would appropriate two hundred dollars annually for its support; the property to revert on failure of this condition. The town accepted, and has since more than met the condition. The library is kept in the Memorial Building and now contains about three thousand three hundred volumes.

# O A K H A M.

BY MAJ. JOHN B. FAIRBANK.

## CHAPTER I.

SITUATION AND SURFACE — SETTLEMENT AND FIRST PURCHASE — INCORPORATION — APPROACH OF THE REVOLUTION — MINUTE-MEN — INFLATED CURRENCY — HIGH PRICES — CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION — WAR OF 1812 — VOTE AGAINST ALLIANCE — CIVIL WAR.

THIS town lies fourteen miles north-west of Worcester, and joins Rutland and Paxton on the north-east, Barre on the north-west, New Braintree on the south-west, and Spencer on the south. It is eminently one of the "hill towns" of the county. All the streams which water and drain it have their sources within its borders, and flow either northerly to the Ware, or southerly to the Chicopee River.

The surface is uneven. The underlying rock is of the gneiss formation, nearly horizontal in position, the strike of which is nearly north and south, and the dip slightly to the west.

The soil is fertile and well adapted to the grasses, grains and fruits of New England. The subsoil of the hills is a compact clay; of the valleys is sand or gravel. Over one-fifth of the surface is covered with forests, chiefly of chestnut. There are no large streams of water in the town, but the brooks and small streams by their rapid fall furnish considerable water-power the greater part of the year.

Upon Cold Brook in the northerly part of the town are mineral springs of great interest. Their waters are successfully used in the treatment of many forms of disease. There are several of these springs situated near each other, yet entirely distinct in the character of their waters.

Oakham constituted the south-west portion of an Indian tract called Naquag. This tract was conveyed Dec. 22, 1686, by five Natick Indians to Henry Willard, Joseph Rowlandson, Joseph Foster, Benjamin Willard and Cyprian Stevens. The Indian deed was confirmed by the legislature Feb. 23, 1713, and to that conveyance is traced the titles of the present owners.

The municipal history of Oakham commences in 1762, when it was set off

from Rutland, and incorporated into a town. Previous to that time it was known as Rutland West Wing. Its social history begins in 1750, when the first settlements were made within its limits.

In the autumn of the last mentioned year a colony of ten families was formed in the old town to settle the West Wing. The heads of these families were: William Banks, Alexander Bothwell, Alexander Crawford, Patrick Green, Alexander McFarland, James Bell, James Craige, James Dean, William Harper, Robert McMains.

These colonists were Scotch-Irish, from the North of Ireland. In religious faith and practice they were Presbyterians. Having selected their lands, the settlers united in building their houses, all working on each house in turn. Nine houses were completed the same autumn, and the tenth the following spring.

The West Wing had been laid out previous to its settlement by the proprietors of Rutland into fifty-two lots of about two hundred and fifty acres each. These lots are still known as "original lots," and their boundaries as "original lines of lots."

The number of settlers was largely increased during the next eight years by the arrival of other families.

In 1758 a petition signed by twenty-four persons was sent to the Colonial Government, praying that they be incorporated into a precinct. This petition was as follows:—

*"To His Excellency, Thomas Pownal, Esq., Governor and Commander in Chief in and over His Majesty's Province of Massachusetts Bay: To the Honble His Majesty's Council and the Honble House of Representatives in General Court Assembled:*

"December 29th, 1758. — The Petition of us the Subscribers Inhabitants of the West Wing of Rutland so called Humbly Shows That y<sup>e</sup> greater of us live at a very great Distance from the places of Public Worship both in Old and New Rutland. That we are not in a Capacity of Ourselves to Raise any sum of money in order to hire Preaching among us as we are neither a Propriety, Town District nor Parrish. Besides many other Inconveniences we labor under to witt for the want of Power To raise money for the Schooling and Educating our children And also money To Repair and make Highways and build Bridges And many other Difficulties we Labor under by Reason of being thus in A State of Nature. We Humbly apprehend y<sup>t</sup> if we were Incorporated into a Parrish and Impowered to Raise Money for the Ends and Uses above Mentioned it would greatly Incourage the Settlement of the Place.

"Wherefore your Petitioners Humbly Pray your Excellency and Honours would be Pleased to Incorporate all the lands in the said Wing as they are delineated on the Plan Herewith Presented Into a Precinct or Parrish and Inable us to assess the Inhabitants of said Wing from Time to Time for such sums of Money as shall be agreed upon to be raised by the Major part of the Inhabitants for the Ends and Purposes Aforesaid Or Otherwise Relieve Your Petitioners as in Your great Wisdom You shall see Meet. And as in duty bound Shall ever Pray."

Upon this petition an act was passed incorporating the inhabitants of the



West Wing of Rutland into a precinct, with all the rights, privileges and immunities which by law precincts had been vested with.

The first precinct meeting was held at the house of Alexander Bothwell, March 6, 1759, for the purpose of choosing precinct officers.

In the same year it was —

“Voted to raise teen poonds by tax to Repair Hyways. Also to tax the inhabitece teen poonds to support pritching this present year and that the meeting be kept the first Sabbath at the house of Capt. James Craige, y<sup>e</sup> 2 day at Alexander Craffords y<sup>e</sup> 3 at Left Bothwells y<sup>e</sup> 4 at Patrick Greens and so the other four days accordingly.”

In 1761 the precinct voted to build a meeting-house “at the Santer or next convenient place,” forty-six feet in length by thirty-six feet wide. The walls were raised and enclosed in the autumn of that year, but the house progressed slowly, and for eighteen years thereafter appropriations were annually made towards finishing it. A committee to seat the meeting-house were instructed in assigning seats to the people “to have respect not only to their pay but to their age and reputation.”

At a meeting held April 16, 1762, the precinct voted to petition the General Court to be incorporated as a separate town, and on the eleventh day of June, 1762, was passed “an act for erecting the West Precinct of Rutland into a District by the name of Oakham.” The town was called Oakham from a town of the same name in England, from which many of the inhabitants had come.

The first town meeting was held at the house of Capt. James Craige, Tuesday, the 22d day of June, 1762, and the following town officers were chosen:— Clerk, George Harper; selectmen and assessors, James Craige, George Harper and Jonathan Bullard; constable, James Dean; treasurer, Arthur Forbes; warden, James Bell; surveyors of highways, Joseph Craige, Arthur Forbes and Alexander McFarland; tithing-man, Solomon Parmenter.

From the incorporation of the town to the beginning of the Revolution, the warrants for the annual town meetings usually prescribed the following business:—

“To choose all necessary town officers.

To see what money the town will grant for preaching this year.

To see what money the town will grant for schooling this year.

To see what money the town will grant towards finishing the meeting-house.

To see what money the town will grant for repairing highways.

To see if hogs shall be allowed to run at large.

To choose a committee to provide a minister.”

The last article usually elicited the most interest. On one occasion the committee were instructed “to apply to the presbytery for a minister, *and no where else.*”

The causes which led to the Revolution were rapidly producing their results, and the minds of the people of the town were diverted from their own local matters, and attracted to the broader field of national affairs.

The records abundantly attest the deep interest which they took in the great events of that time. They were accustomed to express and enforce their opinions by resolutions, instructions to their officers, and by their votes.

On the sixteenth day of January, 1775, the selectmen convened the inhabitants at the meeting-house to "discover their minds on the following questions: —

"I. To see if they will choose a man to go to the Provincial Congress to set at Cambridge on the first of February next.

"II. To see if they will chose a Committee of Inspection and give them any instructions.

"III. To see if they will vote to pay their proportion to the Continental Congress."

At this meeting, it was voted —

"To pay the Continental Congress their proportion, and that the Treasurer advance the same, one half to be taken from the money raised for preaching, and one half from the school fund, and that the amount — £12 3s. 6d. — be paid to the receiver appointed by Congress, *and that no money be paid into his Majesty's Exchequer by the officers of this Town.*

"Also voted unanimously to adhere to what they have done, as follows, to wit: Having perused the votes and proceedings of the Continental Congress held at Philadelphia on the 5th of September, 1774, containing the Bill of Rights, a List of Grievances, the Association, &c.; we esteem the same truly loyal and well stated, and calculated for the preservation of our invaluable rights and privileges, and therefore, to use the words of that venerable body, firmly agree and associate, under the sacred ties of virtue, honor and love of our Country, faithfully to adhere to said association in all respects."

Capt. Isaac Stone was chosen a delegate to the Provincial Congress to be held at Cambridge, and the following instructions were given him: —

"SIR, — You having been unanimously chosen to represent us at this alarming crisis, we expect you to exert yourself for the public good.

"You are sensible that we have unanimously adopted the Association of the Continental Congress as truly loyal and well calculated for the preservation of our invaluable rights and privileges, which we trust will be your general guide. And further, it is our opinion to suspend the choice of officers for the administration of Civil government for the present, unless something should be laid before the Congress which should make the contrary highly necessary."

Jesse Allen, Jonathan Bullard, Isaac Stone, Joseph Craige, Joseph Hudson, Benjamin Joselyn, and Samuel Metcalf were at the same time chosen a "Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety," and were instructed to "put into execution the resolves of the Continental and Provincial Congresses as far as they are able."

The committee had no authority under the law, and were powerless to enforce these resolves except as they brought public opinion to bear upon

offenders; but this, in their hands, was a terrible weapon. Persons disloyal to the cause of the Colonies were to be "held and treated as outcasts—to be shunned and avoided as enemies of humanity"; and yet to be closely watched, and all their actions scrutinized by the committee.

This committee, with changes of its members, was continued throughout the Revolution.

In April, 1775, a company of minute-men was formed, which, upon the Lexington alarm, left town for the scene of encounter, but the alarm subsiding, they soon returned home.

On the first day of May, 1775, a town meeting was held to choose a representative to the Provincial Congress to be held at Watertown, and, in the language of the warrant, calling the meeting "To consult, deliberate and resolve upon such further measures as under God may prove effectual to save this people from impending ruin, and to secure those inestimable liberties derived to us from our ancestors, and which it is our duty to preserve for posterity."

Capt. Isaac Stone was chosen to represent the town in that Congress.

Oct. 15, 1775, a special town meeting was held "to see what instructions the town will give its Representative respecting the Stamped paper lately sent from England." The following was voted:—

"SIR, — We are sensible of the duty we owe to the Crown of Great Britain, at the same time cannot but have a sensible feeling not only for ourselves and this Province, but for all the Colonies here on account of a late Act of Parliament respecting the Stamp Duty, which we humbly conceive presses hard on our Inalienable rights and privileges granted us by charter, and which tends to distress the inhabitants of this country, especially of this Province, and which must end, we are convinced in our Ruin — we therefore think it our indispensable duty, in justice to ourselves and posterity, in the most open manner to declare our greatest dissatisfaction with the said Stamp Act, and think it incumbent on you by no means to countenance the same in any measure whatsoever, but to use your utmost endeavors in the General Assembly to oppose it and preserve our liberties Intire."

In the warrant for a town meeting held on the fourth day of March, 1776, the following article of business appears:—

"VIII. To bring in an account of the Powder, Lead and Flints that was delivered to the minute men or others on the alarm on the 19th of April last."

At the same meeting, it was "voted that the Town lodge their amount of Powder, Lead and Flints with the chairman of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety."

May 21, 1776, the town "voted £4 16s. for intrenching tools." On the same day, some six weeks before the passage of the Declaration of Independence, the town "voted without contradiction that if the Hon<sup>l</sup> Congress should for the safety of the Colonies declare them Independent of the Kingdom of



Great Britain, they solemnly engage with their lives and fortunes to support them in the measure."

After the passage of the Declaration, the writs and precepts of the town ran "In the name of the Government and People of Massachusetts Bay," instead of "In His Majesty's Name," as had previously been the form.

The people were fully committed to the cause of independence. A vote was solemnly passed in town meeting that "such persons as shall refuse to do their part in the war shall be deemed unfriendly to the States of America, and ought to be so esteemed."

The town sent one hundred and twenty-nine men into the Revolutionary army for terms varying from two and one-half months to five and one-half years, the average term of service being ten and one-half months. It paid and supplied these soldiers, and supported their families in all cases of necessity, raising and paying, previous to the inflation of the currency, the sum of £3,676. The number of inhabitants of the town, by the census of 1776, was five hundred and ninety-eight.

After the currency had begun to depreciate, the town voted to pay two pounds for one to all persons to whom it was indebted, and later, Oct. 18, 1779, "to pay thirty pounds per month in addition to the usual pay and bounty to each man who shall do a turn in the present campaign."

The value of the money raised subsequent to the inflation can hardly be worth estimating, but the amount was by no means inconsiderable.

July 11, 1780, the town voted £2,089 10s. for horses for the Continental service. It is said that this sum purchased three horses.

September 4, the same year, voted to raise £18,000 for the six months' campaign in the Continental army, and £9,000 for the militia.

October 12. Voted £5,440 for beef required of the town for the army.

Feb. 5, 1781. Voted £9,112 10s. to purchase beef for the army. At the last date, the town voted "to give three hundred silver dollars as hire to each soldier enlisting in the Continental Army for three years."

To avert some of the evil consequences of a fluctuating currency, an attempt was made in 1777 to fix the prices of labor and the most common articles of merchandise, and a long list of prices was published. In 1779, this price-list was revised, by a resolution, to meet the altered condition of the currency, and this town voted "that the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety have a watchful eye over and deal with every person who should be guilty of a breach of the Resolution as an enemy of his Country, and bring every transgressor to condign punishment."

The following are the prices of a few articles, as published in 1777 and 1779: Good wheat, 1777, 6s. per bush., 1779, £8; Indian corn and meal, 1777, 3s. per bush., 1779, £3 12s.; beef, best quality, 1777, 4d. per lb., 1779, 5s. 6d.; lamb, veal and mutton, 1777, 3½d. per lb., 1779, 3s. 6d.; New England rum, 1777, 5s. per gall., 1779, £5; potatoes, 1777, 1s. 4d. per bush., 1779,

£1 5s.; salt, 1777, 14s. 6d. per bush., 1779, £12; sugar, best, 1777, 8½d. per lb., 1779, 13s. 5d.; good common board for a man, 1777, 5s. 4d. per week, 1779, £4 10s.; good common dinner, 1777, 8d., 1779, 13s.; common labor, 1777, 3s. per day, 1779, £2 14s.

In spite of these attempts to fix prices, and in the face of threatened "condign punishment," they were more obedient to the laws of finance than to the lists of committees, and continued to advance until 1781, when the town allowed £18 per day for common labor, and paid a clergyman £120 for one Sabbath's preaching. Perhaps inflationists of the present day could learn a useful lesson from the history of one hundred years ago.

The early inhabitants of the town were evidently possessed of a strong national feeling, and were as zealous for establishing an American Government as they were sensitive to any encroachments upon their "inalienable rights and privileges" by the English Government.

On the 9th of January, 1778, they voted: "That the Confederation and perpetual union proposed by Congress is approved of by this town and that it is left with our representative to join in any alteration which may appear to him, when the matter shall be more fully discussed, to be necessary or for the better."

In the same year it was proposed that the House of Representatives form a Constitution for the State. The town opposed the proposition, but voted "that a State Congress, *chosen for the sole purpose of forming a Constitution of Government* is, in the opinion of this town, more eligible than a House of Representatives." They, therefore, instructed their representative to use his "influence for convening such a Congress for the forming a Plan of Government, to be laid before the people for their inspection, approbation, rejection or amendment."

When the Constitution was submitted to them it was fully discussed, article by article, in town meeting; portions of it were assigned to different committees more fully to consider and report upon; finally, parts were rejected, parts approved, and to other parts amendments were suggested. When the Federal Constitution was proposed it received a like careful consideration. These men clearly felt that they had duties to perform as well as rights to enjoy, and if they would have a good government that they must contribute to the extent of their ability and influence to make it good.

From the adoption of the Federal Constitution to the declaration of war with England, in 1812, there is nothing in the town records of special interest. Laying out and constructing highways, and locating and building school-houses, were matters receiving considerable attention during this time.

The war of 1812 did not commend itself to the judgment, nor did the alliance with France, then advocated, approve itself to the conscience of the town. In the last-mentioned year a town meeting was called for July 10. The warrant prescribed the following business:—

"I. For the town to express their minds respecting the present declaration of War against Great Brittain, or pass any votes thereon.

"II. To see if the town will express an abhorrence of an alliance with France."

The record of the meeting says:—

"I. *Voted against a war under existing circumstances.* Also, voted to choose a committee of nine to circulate a memorial for peace and that Rev. Danl Tomlinson, Doct. Seth Fobes and W<sup>m</sup>. Crawford be a committee to draw up the memorial.

"II. *Voted against any alliance with France.*"

The alliance was not made, but the war went on notwithstanding the vote of the town; and two years later, when it threatened Massachusetts, Capt. (afterward Gen.) William Crawford, member of the committee to prepare the memorial for peace, led a company from Oakham and New Braintree to Boston, to take part in the defence of that city against an expected attack. The company remained in the service at Boston for fifty-seven days, when, the danger being over, they were discharged.

In the late civil war Oakham furnished one hundred and two men for the Union army, which number, according to the report of Adj. Gen. Schouler, was twelve more than her quota on all calls. The town appropriated and expended on account of this war, exclusive of State aid to the families of soldiers, the sum of \$10,867.58.

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## CHAPTER II.

POPULATION AND STATISTICS—PUBLIC BUILDINGS—RELIGIOUS HISTORY—AN OLD-FASHIONED ORDINATION—SABBATH-SCHOOL—EDUCATIONAL FEATURES—APPROPRIATIONS—COLLEGIATE AND EMINENT MEN.

THE population of the town at various times has been as follows: In 1776, 598; 1790, 772; 1800, 801; 1820, 986; 1840, 1,038; 1860, 959; 1870, 860; 1875, 873. Of the population in 1875, seventy-six were foreign-born, and seven hundred and ninety-seven natives. The number of families was two hundred and nineteen, and the number of voters two hundred and twenty-two. The chief occupation of the people is agriculture. There are in the town one hundred and thirty-two farms, of an average of ninety-one acres each. The whole number of dwelling-houses in the town is one hundred and eighty-five. The valuation of the town, \$354,742. The value of farm products for the year 1875 was \$99,478. The value of manufactured products for the same year was \$47,831. The principal manufactures are sieves and lumber. A few men are employed in making boots and shoes, obtaining their work from the manufacturers of North Brookfield and Spencer.

There are in the town two water saw-mills, two grist-mills, one manufactory



of sieves, one of baskets and one of plows. Each of these industries gives employment to a few men. There are also two blacksmith shops, one carriage shop, one machine shop, and one harness shop.

The public buildings include one church (Congregational), six school-houses and one town hall. Memorial Hall, built by the town in 1874, is two stories in height. In the first story are two large and commodious school-rooms, fitted up and furnished in the most approved style. In the second story is the town hall, in which are placed mural tablets engraved with the names of the soldiers of the town who lost their lives in the war of the Rebellion. The people are justly proud of this building.

The ecclesiastical history of the town for the first fifty years is closely interwoven with its political history.

The town was the parish. It paid the minister by a tax upon all the property. It built and owned the meeting-house. The selectmen were often the committee to supply the pulpit. Church polity and the qualifications of ministers were subjects often warmly discussed in town meeting. For the first nine years of the settlement there is no record of religious services on the Sabbath, but as soon as the settlers were formed into a separate precinct in 1759, they made arrangements for preaching at private houses for two or three months each year.

A Presbyterian church of about thirty members was organized Aug. 28, 1767.

There is a tradition that there was great embarrassment because of the habits and character of some of the proposed members. Objections were made to some that they tarried too long at their cups, to others that their language sometimes bordered too closely upon profanity, and it appeared for awhile as if no one could be found worthy of membership. At last a Scotchman exclaimed, "Weel, if the Laard wants a church in Oakham, he must tak' them such as they be." This church lived a precarious life until 1783, when it disbanded, the town having voted "that the church should be under the Congregational constitution or government." The first minister ever settled in the town was the Rev. John Strickland. He was installed over the Presbyterian church, Aug. 28, 1766.

The town voted him £133 6s. 8d. for a settlement, and for a salary £60 the first year, £63 6s. 8d. the second year, and £66 13s. 4d. annually thereafter so long as he should remain their minister. He sent his resignation to the town June 2, 1773, which was accepted on the same day.

Upon Mr. Strickland's resignation a Congregational church was organized. The record of the organization gives only the names of the male members, sixteen in number. Jesse Allen and Jonathan Bullard were chosen deacons. This church has continued to the present time, and is the only church in the town. It now has about two hundred members.

For thirteen years from its organization the church had no pastor. July 3,

1778, a call was extended to Rev. Baruch Beckwith. The town offered him £150 for a settlement, and an annual salary of £66 13s. 4d. ever afterwards, more or less in proportion as good merchantable Indian corn brings 3s. per bushel; rye, 4s.; best quality of pork, 4d. per pound, and best grass-fed beef, 3d. per pound. Mr. Beckwith declined. Rev. John Davenport, Rev. Solomon Walcott and Rev. Daniel Farrington were severally invited to settle, but declined.

In 1779 a controversy arose in the town respecting the baptizing of children whose parents were not members of the church.

In town meeting it was "voted that the town is willing to settle a minister if they can find one that is suitable. Also that they will settle a minister although he does not baptize for those who do not belong to the church, 37 for settling in that way and 24 not for settling that way."

On the 3d of April, 1786, the town and church concurred in calling the Rev. Daniel Tomlinson to be the minister of the town and pastor of the church. He was offered £200 for a settlement, and a salary of £60 the first year, £70 the second, and £80 annually thereafter.

Mr. Tomlinson having accepted the call, a town meeting was held on the 18th of May to appoint a day and make all necessary arrangements for his ordination. The twenty-second day of June was fixed upon as the time. Numerous committees were chosen, one "to provide for ye Council," one "to secure ye meeting-house from being in danger of being damaged on ye day of ordination."

Another committee was "to keep order in ye meeting-house on said day of ordination, and provide seats for ye Council." And still another was "to seat ye singers."

The town also voted £15 to defray the necessary expenses. In the expenses paid by the town were these items:—"For entertaining the Council, 85 meals, liquor included, £6 16s. 3d.; for wine and lemons for the ordination, £2 5s. 6d."

The "liquor included" and the "wine and lemons" indicate the drinking customs of the times. Several members of the Council lived to see a reform of those customs, and themselves became, both by example and precept, the earnest advocates of total abstinence.

Mr. Tomlinson at the time of his ordination was twenty-seven years of age. He was born in Derby, Conn., graduated at Yale College, and studied theology with the eminent Doctor Backus. He remained as sole pastor until 1828, and as senior pastor until his death, fourteen years later. His ministry was most successful; under his pastorate the church largely increased in numbers and in beneficent work. Of him his successor said: "He was a sound theologian—a man of great faith and prayer, and mighty in the Scriptures." Thoroughly loved and respected, he died Oct. 29, 1842, and was buried within the shadow of the church which for more than fifty-six years he had faithfully served.

In 1829 Rev. Asa Hixon was settled over the church, but after preaching

about three months, he was compelled on account of feeble health to resign and leave town.

In 1832 Rev. James Kimball became pastor of the church, and filled the office for twenty-eight years. His health failing, he resigned in the autumn of 1860, and died in the following March, in the sixty-fourth year of his age. His ministry, like that of Mr. Tomlinson, was most successful. At the time of his retirement the church numbered two hundred and twenty-three members.

A man of great piety and exceeding gentleness, abounding in charity and sympathy, remarkable for the wisdom of his judgment, respected, confided in and loved by old and young alike, Mr. Kimball was a faithful minister, a tender shepherd, a safe counsellor, and by his life a most persuasive preacher. Happy the church with such a pastor, and the youth of a community with such a guide.

Of these two men, Mr. Tomlinson and Mr. Kimball, it has been truthfully said: "More enduring than monuments of brass or marble are the monuments which they have built for themselves in the characters and lives of the people of Oakham."

In December, 1860, Rev. F. N. Peloubet became pastor of the church, and remained until the summer of 1866, when he was succeeded by Rev. J. C. Halliday, who, in 1871, was succeeded by Rev. Alpha Morton, who still occupies the place.

Jesse Allen, who was chosen deacon upon the organization of the church in 1773, held that office until his death in 1816, when his son, the late Hon. James Allen was elected, and held the place until his death in 1870, when he was succeeded by his son, a present incumbent.

The officers of the church at the present time are Rev. Alpha Morton, pastor; James Packard, Jesse Allen and Horace W. Lincoln, deacons.

In 1832 a Methodist church was organized, but becoming weak in numbers, it finally disbanded, most of its members joining the Congregationalists.

In 1818 a Sabbath school was organized in connection with the Congregational church. Dea. James Allen was the first superintendent, and filled that office for more than forty years. He was succeeded by Dea. James Packard for eighteen years, and he in 1878 by Dea. Jesse Allen. The school now numbers two hundred members.

The citizens of Oakham have always manifested a commendable interest in the cause of public education. Liberal appropriations have been made annually for schools, and conscientiously expended. In 1762 the town voted £10 for schooling; in 1780, £30; in 1835, \$500; in 1865, \$1,000. In 1780, £1 2s. 8d. per month and board was paid to male teachers, and 4s. per month to female teachers.

The teachers "boarded around." In 1769 the town was divided into five "school-plots," and each plot required to build a "decent school-house."

In 1787 Rev. Mr. Tomlinson was chosen inspector of schools, and in 1798



three men were chosen "to assist in examining schoolmasters and inspecting schools."

The town now supports six schools for twenty-six weeks in the year, affording reasonable opportunities for all the youth of the town to acquire a fair education. The schools have generally been of a high standard of excellence, and the pupils have had a deservedly good reputation for scholarship.

Since 1833 a select school has been taught in the autumn of nearly every year, with an attendance varying from twenty to seventy. It has been of incalculable benefit to the town.

Twenty-nine men from the town have received a liberal education at American colleges and professional schools, and have adorned the professions which they have chosen. Several others have been influential in the counsels of the State and the nation, yet the chief glory and pride of the town is, not in her few sons who have attained eminence, but in the many true hearts and sound heads that have gone from her common schools to the common vocations of life.

## OXFORD.

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BY GEORGE A. STOCKWELL, A. M.

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## CHAPTER I.\*

THE NIPMUCK COUNTRY — THE FIRST GRANT — SETTLEMENT OF THE HUGUENOTS  
— INCURSION OF THE INDIANS, AND FLIGHT OF THE INHABITANTS.

THE Indian name of Oxford was Mancharge or Manchaug. The native inhabitants formed a branch of the Nipmuck tribe, and were under the chieftainship of Black James of Chaubunagungamaug, now Webster. The first that was known of this branch of the Nipmucks was through the visit of the Indian apostle, Eliot, and Daniel Gookin, in 1674. This settlement then consisted of about twelve families, or sixty souls. Its members had made some progress in agriculture, were peaceful and docile, received the Bible from Eliot, and formed what was called one of the "New Praying Towns." In Philip's war, this tribe proved treacherous to the English, joined Philip, and was nearly destroyed.

In May, 1681, William Stoughton and Joseph Dudley were appointed by the General Court to treat with the Indian owners for a tract of land lying in the Nipmuck country, and in May, 1682, these agents received of Waban, Pyambobo and others, "Indian natives, and natural descendants of the ancient proprietors and inhabitants of the Nipmuck country," in consideration of fifty pounds and a black coat for Black James, a deed of all that part of the Nipmuck country lying beyond the great river called Kuttatuck or Nipmuck, now known as the Blackstone. Nearly in the centre of this country was the Indian town or village called Manchaug, for which a grant was made as follows:—

"This Court having information that some gentlemen in England are desirous to remove themselves into this colony, and (if it may be) to settle themselves under the Massachusetts; for encouragement of such persons and that they may have some from among themselves, according to their notion, to assist and direct them in such a design, this court doth grant to Major Robert Thompson, William Stoughton and

\* For many of the leading historical facts in this chapter, the writer is indebted to the recently-published volume by George F. Daniels, entitled "The Huguenots in the Nipmuck Country, or Oxford prior to 1713."

Joseph Dudley, Esqs., and such others as they shall associate to them. a tract of land in any free place, containing eight miles square, for a township, they settling in said place within fower years, thirty families, and an able orthodox minister, and doe allow to the said township freedom from country rates for fower years from the time above limited. May 16, 1682."

The first survey of this grant was made by John Gore of Roxbury. It contained 41,250 acres, or a little less than sixty-five square miles. This plan and survey were accepted by the General Court on May 16, 1683, and the tract given the name of New Oxford, in honor of Oxfordshire, Eng., and its university. On the eastern side of this grant, 11,250 acres were set off for a village; the remainder was divided among the proprietors. The deed of division was found in London in 1872, and is now in possession of the New York Historical Society. The north-east corner of Angutteback Pond was the western limit of the village.

The grant for Oxford was the first for a town within the territory now known as Worcester County, after Philip's war. Previous to this time, only four townships had been granted in the "great interior territory," namely, Lancaster in 1653, Mendon in 1667, Worcester in 1668, and Brookfield in 1673. In consequence of the general effect produced by Philip's war, and the fact that predatory bands of disaffected Indians still menaced the frontier settlements, the inhabitants of the old towns near Boston were loth to remove into the "distant wilderness," as the Nipmuck country was then called. Hence, settlement proceeded slowly, and the grantees of Oxford, fearing that the time of their grant would expire before the requisite number of families were obtained, applied to the Court for an extension, which was granted thus:—

"In answer to motion and request of William Stoughton and Joseph Dudley, Esqr<sup>s</sup>., on behalf of Major Thompson and themselves, desiring this court's favor to enlarge the time of their grant of their plantation, this court do enlarge the time for settling that plantation therein mentioned, the Space of three years from this day."

This was dated in January, 1685, the year in which Louis XIV. signed the infamous decree called the "Revocation of the Edict of Nantes," which annulled forever the privileges granted to the Huguenots by Henry IV. and Louis XIII., and absolutely prohibited the exercise of their religion throughout the kingdom, with the exception of Alsace. In consequence of this repeal, the French Protestants or Huguenots, who had suffered great cruelties and persecutions on account of their religious faith, became exiles from their native country. Many settled in England, and, of these, some found their way to America. Though the influence and aid of Gabriel Bernon, a native of Rochelle, France, and a person of distinction, who in England made the acquaintance of Robert Thompson, one of the grantees of Oxford, many of these refugees emigrated to Boston, and in 1686 several families were settled at Oxford.



With them came Isaac Bertrand Du Tuffeau, as agent for Bernon, and as director in the affairs of the Colony. As an encouragement, the company granted to him and Bernon, who, induced by Du Tuffeau, came to America, seven hundred and fifty acres of land. Afterwards Bernon was granted seventeen hundred and fifty acres. With this company of Huguenots came, also, Daniel Bondet, as minister.

During the spring of 1688 the requisite number of families — thirty — was settled. The height of prosperity of the colony was reached in 1693. In this year the town was authorized to send a representative to the General Court, and Daniel Allen was chosen. In the summer of 1694 the hostile Indians appeared, and then commenced the decline of the settlement. In the fall of this year their minister, Daniel Bondet, left them. Nothing further is known of this colony until the Johnson massacre in 1696, when John Johnson and three children, Andrew, Peter and Mary, were murdered in cold blood by a roving band of hostile Indians. Mrs. Johnson escaped and fled towards Woodstock, expecting to meet her husband returning from that place. He reached the house by another route, and was shot at his own door. This attack broke up the plantation, and the settlers returned to Boston. In 1699 eight or ten families returned to the plantation, and remained until 1704.

The place chosen for the headquarters of the colony was on a hill south-east of the present village. The main fort was built there, the road from Boston entered the town at that point, and below the fort at the distance of half a mile was the church and burying-yard. The first mill was a saw-mill, built near the lower end of Oxford plain; also, on the same stream, about a mile above, was a grist-mill. The best known relic of the Huguenot settlement is the ruin of the old fort, one mile and a half from Oxford village, the outlines of which may now be traced by means of the foundation-stones. The fort was one hundred feet long and seventy-five feet wide, was built of unhewn stone and possibly timber, enclosing a house and well. Another relic is the site of the Johnson house, on Johnson plain, where, in 1875, citizens of Oxford erected a stone. An industry of the Huguenots was the manufacture of ship-stores, and another that of making glove-leather from deerskins.

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## CHAPTER II.

### THE ENGLISH SETTLEMENT — THE TOWN AND CHURCH — THE REVOLUTION — ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

THE settlement of English families in Oxford began in May, 1713. In July of the same year the required number of families was obtained, and on the twelfth of the month the following proclamation and deed was made by the proprietors of the grant:—

*"To all persons unto whom these presents shall come: Joseph Dudley, of Roxbury, in the county of Suffolk, and province of the Massachusetts Bay, in New England, Esq.; William Taylor, of Dorchester, in the same county, Esq.; Peter Sargent, of Boston, Esq., and Mehetable, his wife; John Nelson, of Boston, Esq., and Elizabeth, his wife; as they, the said William Taylor, Peter Sargent, and John Danforth, are the heirs and executors of the Hon. William Stoughton, late of Dorchester, deceased, send greeting:*

*"Whereas, The General Court of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, in the year one thousand six hundred and eighty-two, granted to said Joseph Dudley, William Stoughton, and their associates, a certain tract of land in the Nipmuck country, eight miles square, for a township, as may be seen more at large by the records of the General Court, pursuant whereunto, and for the uses aforesaid, the said Joseph Dudley, William Stoughton, and their associates, in the year one thousand six hundred and eighty-six, brought over thirty families of French Protestants into this country, and settled them upon the eastern part of the said tract of land, and reserved, granted, and set apart 11,250 acres for a village, called Oxford, for the said families, and bounded it as by a plat upon record will more fully appear; but forasmuch as the said French families have, many years since, wholly left and deserted their settlements in said village, and the said lands, as well by their deserting the same, and refusing to return, upon public proclamation made for that end, as by the voluntary surrender of most of them, are now reinvested in and restored to and become the estate and at the disposition of the original proprietors, their heirs and successors, for the ends aforesaid:*

*"And, whereas, There are sundry good families of her Majesty's subjects within this Province who offer themselves to go out and resettle the said village, whereby they may be serviceable to the Province, and the end and design of the original grant aforesaid be answered and attained:*

*"Now, know ye, That the said Joseph Dudley, William Taylor, Peter Sargent and Mehetable his wife, John Nelson, and Elizabeth, his wife, and John Danforth, and Elizabeth, his wife, for and in consideration and to the uses, and intents above mentioned—*

*"Have fully, freely, and absolutely, and by these presents, do give, grant and confirm unto Samuel Hageburn, John Town, Daniel Eliot, Abiel Lamb, Joseph Chamberlain, Benjamin Nealand, Benoni Twitchel, Joseph Rocket, Benjamin Chamberlain, Jr., Oliver Collier, Daniel Pierson, Abram Skinner, Ebenezer Learned, Thomas Leason, Ebenezer Humphrey, Jonathan Tillotson, Edmund Taylor, Ephraim Town, Israel Town, William Hudson, Daniel Eliot, Jr., Nathaniel Chamberlain, John Chandler, Jr., John Chandler, and others, their associates, so as their number amount to thirty families at least, all that part of the said tract of land, etc., etc., herein above mentioned; Provided, always, That if any of the persons, grantees above named, or any of their associates, shall neglect to settle upon and improve the said land with themselves and families, by the space of two years next ensuing,—or, being settled thereon, shall leave and desert the same, and not return to their respective habitations in the said town, upon due notice given,—that then in such case, it shall and may be lawful to and for the rest of the grantees and their associates, heirs, or assigns, respectively, or the major part of them, to seize upon and take the said estate, or estates of such person or persons so deserting. Excepting always, and reserving to Gabriel Bernon, merchant, the whole of his right, grant, or purchase which made one of the original proprietors, as by deed or record thereof may appear.*

"*In witness whereof*, The parties above named to these presents have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and seals, the 8th day of July, in the 12 year of her Majesty's reign, Anno Domini, 1713.

" (Signed)

J. DUDLEY,  
WILLIAM TAYLOR,  
PETER SARGENT,  
MENETABLE SARGENT,  
JOHN DANFORTH,  
ELIZABETH DANFORTH,  
JOHN NELSON,  
ELIZABETH NELSON,  
and each a seal."

"BOSTON, July 15, 1713. — Received and recorded with the Records of Deeds for the county of Suffolk, Book xxvii., p. 174.

"Attested: JOHN TOWN,  
*Clerk of Oxford.*

Per ADDINGTON DAVENPORT,  
*Register."*

During the year 1714, the proprietors' lands were divided and the head of each of the thirty families drew by lot a tract of thirty acres. The representatives of these families were Isaac Learned, Joshua Chandler, Joseph Chandler, John Coller, Joshua Whitney, Thomas Hunkins, Ebenezer Lamb, and those mentioned in the foregoing deed, except John Chandler.

The first vote recorded on the proprietors' books is dated Sept. 13, 1713, which reads: "Voted, That Peter Shumway shall come in as an inhabitant of Oxford upon the right of Joshua Chandler."

The first town meeting was held on July 22, 1713, "upon due warning given by warrant from John Chandler, Esquire, one of her majesty's (good Queen Anne's) justices of the peace for Suffolk county," at which the following officers were chosen: Selectmen, John Town, Benoni Twitchel, Joseph Chamberlain; clerk, John Town; constable, Thomas Hunkins; highway surveyor, Oliver Coller; tything-man, Abiel Lamb. The first record on the town book after organization, was that in reference to the purchase of a law book, and a book for town records. At a meeting held on Nov. 9, 1773, the town voted, "that John Town, Samuel Hagburn and Benjamin Chamberlain should be a committee to lay out a minister's lot and burying-place."

In March of the next year it was voted "that each lot man shall pay his equal proportion of ten shillings a Sabbath for a quarter of a year, to Mr. John James for his preaching with us." From this it is inferred that John James was the first minister in Oxford after the English settlement.

On July 29, 1714, the town voted "to build a meeting-house thirty feet square, and eighteen feet stud, and to set the house on the west side of the highway, near Twitchel's field." This place was a few rods north-west of the site of the present edifice of the Congregational society. At the same meeting it was also voted "that every lot man should pay his equal proportion of



labor for building the meeting-house, as the committee shall direct, or pay two shillings and sixpence a day for every day's neglect, in money, to the committee." This house of worship was not completed for several years. In 1715, Benjamin Shattuck was engaged to preach two days, and received thirty shillings therefor. During the next year the town raised £30 for the support of preaching, and in the same year appointed a committee to petition the General Court for aid in supporting the Gospel, with what success is unknown.

In 1718, the town offered Rev. John McKinstry equal proprietorship "with the rest of Oxford village," £60 yearly salary, a hundred acres of land, and "£60 to be paid in labor in building, breaking up the ground and in fencing." This offer was not accepted.

In 1720, the town, through its selectmen, applied to the association of neighboring ministers for advice in regard to John Campbell, a candidate for the ministry, then in the employ of the town. The reply of the association, in effect, was that Mr. Campbell was "endowed with ministerial accomplishments, and that he would serve to the glory of God and the spiritual edification of souls in the place where Divine Providence shall fix him in the Gospel ministry." On July 15, 1720, a committee was chosen to treat with Mr. Campbell, and this committee presented its report:—

"In the name of the inhabitants of the town: 1st. We called the Rev. John Campbell to be our minister. 2d. We promised to the said Mr. Campbell £60 salary. 3d. That the said Mr. Campbell himself, his heirs, and assigns, have freely given them the lot already laid out for the first minister of Oxford, with the rights thereunto belonging, and one hundred acres joining the above, if it can be had; if not, where it can conveniently be had. 4th. That we will give the said Mr. Campbell, one hundred pounds settlement, in work, as reasonably as others have work for money in Oxford; twenty-five pounds of it to be paid quarterly, as shall be directed by Mr. Campbell, *provided he shall be willing to live and die with us in the work of the ministry.*"

Mr. Campbell accepted these proposals provided the inhabitants of Oxford continued "a ministerial people."

The church was formed on Jan. 18, 1721, and the day was observed "by fasting, by prayers, and by sermons." Mr. Campbell was ordained March 1, 1721, and remained until his death in 1761. He was succeeded, in 1764, by Joseph Bowman, whose ministry closed in 1782. The next pastor of the church was Elias Dudley; and he was followed by Josiah Moulton. In 1737, the town began the erection of a new house of worship, and although not completed until 1752, services were conducted in it in 1748. The cost of this house was £640 14s. 11d., and it stood on what is now called the "Old Common." Josiah Moulton's pastorate terminated in 1813. Previous to that time, as already shown, the affairs of the church were, to a certain extent, guided by the town, and the support of the Gospel was a "town charge," provided for by the assessment of the polls and estates of the inhabitants. In 1837, a law was passed separating church and state. The town of Oxford anticipated this

law by twenty-four years, and after 1813, ecclesiastical affairs were conducted by those immediately interested.

In 1733, the town voted to procure a school-master, and, in 1736, a school-house was built, fourteen by twenty feet, with a chimney at each end, and was placed near the meeting-house. Other houses were provided in other parts of the town, in which one and the same teacher taught at different times in the year. In 1740, Richard Rogers was employed as "master" by the selectmen, at a salary of £60 a year "to teach where he was directed — four places, two on the north, and two on the south — a quarter of a year in each place." In 1751, the town voted "to build a house for Mr. Rogers to live in as long as he shall be our school-master; to be placed on the town's land near the meeting-house; to be sixteen feet wide, and eighteen feet long." This house was sold in 1762; hence Mr. Rogers served the town as school-master, twenty-two years.

Below is the "muster-roll of a detachment of men from Capt. Edward Davis's company of Oxford of Col. Chandler's regiment that marched on the late alarm for the relief of Fort William Henry, under the command of Capt. Edward Davis as their captain, who marched from Oxford to Sheffield, being 105 miles out," Aug. 18, 1758:—

"Capt. Edward Davis, Lieut. John Edwards, Ensign Jeremiah Learned, Sergt. Jedediah Barton, Sergt. Jos. Edwards, Sergt. John Town, Corp. Phineas Ward, Corp. Moses Town, Alexander Nichols, Jacob Cummings, Ebenezer Eddy, John Wiley, William Eddy, Joseph Phillips, Jr., Israel Phillips, Daniel Fairfield, John Duncan, Hezekiah Merriam, Jr., Jona. Phillips, Silas Town, Samuel Learned, Ebenezer Gale, Jr., Joseph Gleason, Samuel Eddy, Jr., Elisha Gleason, Moses Gleason, Jr., Josiah Googins, Josiah Walcott, Aaron Parker, Edmund Town, Joseph Pratt, Jesse Pratt, Nathan Shumway, David Pratt."

These men were all impressed, and the detachment was out sixteen days.\*

Muster-roll of a detachment of men from Capt. Samuel Davis's company, Jan. 5, 1759:—

"Capt. Samuel Davis, Capt. John Learned, Sergt. Elisha Davis, Sergt. John Nichols, Sergt. Amos Shumway, Sergt. William Parker, Corp. Jeremiah Shumway, Corp. John Davis, Thomas Town, Isaac Learned, Jonas Coller, John Shumway, William Nichols, John Barton, Jonathan Fuller, Ichabod Town, Joseph Pratt, Jr., Stephen Jewett, Joseph Davis, Benjamin Hudson, John Marvin, Isaac Town, Adam Streeter, Arthur Humphrey, Peter Shumway, Joseph Kingsbury, Jeremiah Kingsbury, Roger Amidown, Abijah Harris, Zebulon Streeter, John Dana, Samuel Manning, John Watson, John Robbins, John Coburn, John Shumway, Jr., William Comins, William Learned, Joseph Wilson, John Moore."

The men of this detachment were mounted, and marched under Capt. Davis to Springfield, and under Capt. Learned to Sheffield, and were out sixteen days.†

\* Mass. Arch., XCV., 518.

† Mass. Arch., XCV., 536.

The following inhabitants of Oxford were "enlisted in the expedition against Crown Point in 1759":—

"Capt. Samuel Davis, Capt. John Learned, Sergt. Elisha Davis, Sergt. John Nichols, Sergt. Amos Shumway, Sergt. William Parker, Corp. Jeremiah Shumway, Corp. John Davis, Ebenezer Learned, Elijah Town, Hezekiah Eddy, Jonathan Eddy, Stephen Shumway, Caleb Barton, Jr., Joseph Phillips, Josiah Kingsbury, Joseph Bacon, Ebenezer Davis, Samuel Manning, Solomon Smilledge, Isaac Learned, Jr., John Barnes, John Wiley, Jr."

During the Revolution the inhabitants of Oxford were "heart and hand with the great and common cause." Before it was known in Oxford that independence had been declared, the town, in "solemn conclave," voted "with loud and unanimous voice" that the English yoke must be forever cast off, and the lives and fortunes of its citizens were pledged to secure that state of liberty.

In the town warrant for the May meeting, held on the 17th, 1774, was this article: "To see if the town will give their representative any instruction concerning the making good the damage done in destroying the tea in the harbor of Boston, and do and act thereon as the town shall think proper." This article, however, was dismissed without action.

At a meeting held on Sept. 29, 1774, these resolutions were passed:—

"1st. *Resolved*, That, as by the late acts of Parliament we are deprived of the constitutional laws of the government of Massachusetts Bay, we will endeavor to maintain and keep peace and good order in this town; to support and uphold all civil officers in the execution of their offices, so far as they conform themselves to the charter rights of this government, and assist them duly to punish all offenders against the same laws; to bear testimony against all riots, as well as against any number of men collecting in bodies together to hurt the person or property of any one.

"2d. *Resolved*, That we ever have been and will be, true and loyal subjects of our most gracious Sovereign, George III., King of Great Britain, so long as we are permitted the free execution of our charter rights.

"3d. *Resolved*, That, considering the present alarming and distressed circumstances of this province, it is highly necessary for the military officers of this town to resign their commissions, and, therefore, do advise the said officers to resign accordingly; and that the soldiery, as soon as may be, to elect the same officers to take the command of the different companies in this town, if they will accept, and the major part of the soldiery shall elect them; and if any refuse to serve, then to choose others, experienced in the arts of war, in their stead."

At the same meeting Dr. Alexander Campbell and Capt. Ebenezer Learned were chosen to attend the Provincial Congress, to be held in Concord; and it was voted that "the foregoing resolves were passed, with no other aim or view than to keep peace and order in this town, until we can hear of some measures taken by the Continental Congress, now sitting at Philadelphia, to which we mean strictly to adhere."

The Continental Congress, then in session, published a "Bill of Rights," and



submitted it to the people, and the people, especially with respect to the "Non-Importation Compact," agreed not to import or use any British goods after Dec. 1, 1774; and in Oxford, as elsewhere, a committee was appointed to see that the agreement was kept. The town voted "that the province tax then in the hands of the constable be paid into the town treasury and there remain until further orders; and if the constable be put to any cost for withholding the money from the province treasury, the town will pay the cost."

At a meeting held on July 8, 1776, after the Declaration of Independence, but before that event was known in Oxford, this vote passed: —

"*Voted*: To advise our representative in the General Court, that if the honorable Congress should, for the safety of the Colonies, declare themselves independent of Great Britain, to concur therewith; and the inhabitants of this town do solemnly engage, with their lives and fortunes, to sustain the measure."

In 1777 it was voted "to add to the bounty offered by the American Congress and this State, the sum of £14 to each man who shall enlist in the town as a private soldier for three years or during the war, before any draft be made." Also at the same meeting the town voted "to raise £1,000 to be assessed on the polls and real estate in the town to complete the quota of soldiers now sent for to reinforce the Continental army." In the same year Daniel Griffith was chosen "to carry the evidence of those that may be proceeded with as being inimical to the United States of America, to the Court as by law directed."

In 1778 the town provided 5,760 pounds of the beef for the army, and in the same year voted concurrence with the Articles of Confederation proposed by the American Congress; and at the same meeting voted to pay £800 into the State treasury.

In August, 1779, Ebenezer Learned and Ezra Bowman were chosen delegates to the State Convention, held at Cambridge, for a purpose of forming a Constitution of government for the State.

At the first election of State officers, in September, 1780, Oxford gave twenty-one votes for John Hancock for governor.

The following is a list of the inhabitants of Oxford, who served in the "army of the Revolution": —

Gen. Ebenezer Learned, Capt. William Moore, Capt. John Nichols, Lieut. Benjamin Vassall, Lieut. Ebenezer Humphrey, Lieut. Jacob Town, Jason Collier, David Lamb, Frost Rockwood, Ebenezer Pray, William Simpson, George Alverson, Caleb Barton, John Learned, David Town, Allen Hancock, Peter Shumway, Abijah Kingsbury, Joseph Hurd, James Merriam, Elisha Blanden, Francis Blanden, Jonas Blanden, Sylvanus Learned, Arthur Doggett, Elisha Ward, David Stone, Ebenezer Robbins, — Sewall, Sylvester Town, Levi Davis, Elijah Learned, Sylvanus Learned, Richard Coburn, Jacob Learned, Silas Eddy, Solomon Cook, Elijah Kingsbury, Ezekiel Collier.

In October, 1799, during the administration of Pres. John Adams, a detachment of the United States army, called "Adams' army," consisting of four

regiments of infantry, under the command of Col. Nathan Rice, son of Caleb Rice, the first settled minister in Sturbridge, was stationed in Oxford, on the hill, west of the plain, or Village Street. The officers of this army had their headquarters at "Butler's Tavern," standing opposite the old common, and the "money coffer" used by them is still preserved and may be seen.

"Butler's Tavern," or the building thus named, was built, it is believed, before 1778, and to-day it is covered by the same shaved clap-boards, held by the same hand-wrought nails that were attached to it at the time of its erection. On the turnpike between Worcester and Norwich, it was in its day a noted resort and stage station, and, it is said, that the amount of rum sold at this place in a day, would float one of his majesty's ships. Indeed, throughout the town, at this time and afterward, the inhabitants, it is also said, "drank too much." The "bar-room" of this tavern is unchanged, although the bar is not there. In this room was the first store in Oxford, kept by Andrew Sigourney and James Butler. A partition was erected in one corner enclosing a place about six feet long and four feet wide. In this space were kept and sold buttons, shoe and knee buckles, and tobacco. Molasses and codfish were stored in the cellar. In this room also was held, for several years, a trial justice court, by Jasper Brown, the present owner and occupant.

As already given, church and town were distinct institutions in 1813 and thereafter.

In 1823, the Congregational Society was reorganized under an act of the Legislature relating to freedom in public worship; the present house of worship was erected in 1829, and, in 1857, was transferred from the original proprietors to the society. Pastors:—John Campbell, ordained on March 1, 1721, died in 1761; Joseph Bowman, installed on Nov. 14, 1764, dismissed on Aug. 28, 1782; Elias Dudley, ordained on April 13, 1791, dismissed on March 6, 1799; Josiah Moulton, ordained on March 26, 1805, dismissed on April 6, 1813; David Batcheller, installed on Feb. 13, 1816, died in 1822; Ebenezer Newhall, ordained on Dec. 17, 1823, dismissed on June 19, 1832; Loren Robbins, ordained on Dec. 26, 1832, dismissed on June 8, 1836; Horatio Bardwell, installed on June 8, 1836, dismissed on June 8, 1864; Samuel J. Austin, installed on June 8, 1864, dismissed on Nov. 9, 1868; Thomas E. Babb, installed on Sept. 20, 1871, dismissed on May 1, 1877; Amzi B. Emmons, the present pastor, was installed on Oct. 16, 1878. The present members number 185, and the total membership is 945.

The Universalist Society in this town had its origin in the year 1777. From that time until 1785, persons of this faith secured "occasional preachers," among whom were Caleb Rich and Adam Streeter. On April 27, 1785, the society was organized, and Adam Streeter engaged as pastor.

The ecclesiastical body formerly known as the "General Convention of Universalists of the New England States and Others," but now called "The United States Convention of Spiritualists," originated in the Oxford Church. The



society built a house of worship in 1791. There were no regular services between 1797 and 1801, although Hosea Ballou and Edward Turner served the society occasionally during that time. Pastors:—John Nichols, 1811–12; Richard Carrique, 1813; Lyman Maynard, 1828–30; Seth Chandler, 1832–4; Gilman Noyes, 1839–40; Alvin Abbott, 1841; Alfred Barnes, 1844; R. M. Byram, 1846; Jacob Baker, 1849; Albert Tyler, 1852; H. Closson, 1854; O. H. Tillotson, 1856–7; George Proctor, 1858.

The history of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Oxford, begins in the year 1835, in the winter of which the first sermon by a Methodist minister was preached by Joseph Ellis. Subsequently, in the same year, Benjamin Paine, then stationed in Northbridge, began to hold regular services in the Universalist house of worship. In 1836, at the New England Conference, Benjamin Paine was appointed pastor of the church in Oxford. The first house of worship was built in 1840 and '41; the present edifice was erected in 1867 and '68. A parsonage was bought in 1844, and in 1846 the present one came into the possession of the society. The membership is 155.

Benjamin Paine, the first pastor, was succeeded by Thomas W. Tucker, 1837–8; Lyman Boyden, 1839; William R. Stone, 1840; Freeman Nutting, 1841; Horace Moulton, 1842; C. C. Burr, 1843; N. S. Spaulding, 1844; Charles W. Ainsworth, 1845; Amos Walton, 1846–7; J. S. J. Gridley, 1848; A. A. Cook, 1849; D. Y. Kilgore, 1850; C. L. McCurdy, 1851; William A. Braman, 1852–3; Mosely Dwight, 1854; Burtis Judd, 1855–6; William Gordon, 1857; Daniel Wait, 1858–60; Jonas M. Clark, 1861; George Prentice, 1862; Thomas Marcy, 1863–4; D. E. Chapin, 1865–7; I. S. Cushman, 1868; Daniel Wait, 1769–71; Franklin Furber, 1872; I. B. Bigelow, 1873–4; F. T. George, 1875–6; O. W. Adams, 1877–8; Charles W. Wilder, 1879.

The Baptist Society was organized in North Oxford, on March 29, 1837, when a constitution was adopted and signed by twenty-seven members. On May 10, 1837, an ecclesiastical council called for the purpose, recognized the new church as the North Oxford Baptist Church. The house of worship was erected in 1836 and '37, and deeded to the deacons of the church in trust forever. Pastors:—A. Smith Lyon, 1838–47; Solomon Gale, 1847–9; J. N. Hobart, 1849–52; Joseph Hodges, 1852–5; J. E. Wood, 1855–7; C. M. Herring, 1857–9; Thomas Chapman, two years; Joseph Smith four years; W. H. Shedd, J. W. Lathrop, each three years; Oliver Ayer, present pastor.

The Episcopal church in Oxford was organized on May 10, 1864, although services were held in 1863 in Sanford Hall. The church edifice, the most attractive building in Oxford, and a fine specimen of Gothic architecture, was erected in 1864, chiefly through the liberality of Mr. George Hodges. The first rector was W. F. Lloyd, who served from Oct. 11, 1863, to July 1, 1867, and, in October of the same year, was succeeded by W. H. Brooks, D. D., who continued in office till Oct. 1, 1869, since when there has been no rector, nor stated service. St. Roch's Catholic church was built in 1856.



## CHAPTER III.

OXFORD TO-DAY, ITS TERRITORY AND PHYSICAL FEATURES — ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF MANUFACTURING VILLAGES — PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS — THE CIVIL WAR — BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

THE town of Oxford lies in the southern part of the county, eleven miles from Worcester and fifty from Boston. Auburn and a part of Leicester adjoin on the north, Charlton and a part of Dudley on the west, Webster and Douglas on the south, and Sutton and a corner of Millbury on the east.

According to the survey of the territory of Oxford in 1688, the township included 41,245 acres. In 1732 "Oxford South Gore" was annexed, and in 1735 a tract on the southern border, known as the farm of Paul Dudley, was added, both additions increasing the area to nearly 45,000 acres. A part of Sutton was annexed in 1793, another part of the South Gore in 1807, a part of Charlton in 1809, and the North Gore in 1838. In 1754 all of the original grant lying one mile west of the village line was set off to form the town of Charlton, and in 1778 the town of Ward, now Auburn, acquired about a third of its territory from that of Oxford. The whole area in 1794 was 17,336½ acres. In 1832 the southern part of Oxford was taken to form, with a part of Dudley, the town of Webster.

The physical outline of the town is irregular and undulating. The soil is light, but generally productive. Bondet's Hill, a high, round-top hill, on the south-east, Long Hill, also called Federal Hill, on the north-east, Prospect Hill, on the north, extending into Auburn, and Mayo's or Fort Hill, on the east, Mount Pleasant in the north-west, are the chief elevations, although every hill and hollow, in consequence of the town's peculiar history, has a name. The Maanexit [French] River, the principal stream, rises in Leicester and Spencer, crosses the northern boundary, and flows southerly through the western part of the town, furnishing power for various manufactories established on its course.

The commercial centre of the place, which is one mile south of its territorial centre, is situated on an extensive plain called Oxford Plain. Oxford Village is divided, north and south, by a broad or "eight-rod highway," as it was called in the early history of the town. This street is a feature of particular interest and beauty. It is about a mile in length, and throughout the whole distance retains nearly its original width — eight rods. On this shaded and well-kept thoroughfare are four church edifices, a bank, Memorial Hall, post-office, stores and many handsome residences. Nearly midway of the main avenue another broad street extends east and west, on which are various mercantile establishments and the railway station.

At the time of the settlement of Oxford the place now called the "Old Com-

mon," a mile north of Oxford Village, was designed for and was for many years the centre; but the natural advantages of the plain, the fact that two great thoroughfares intersected at the present centre, and that the station of the Norwich and Worcester Railroad, opened to Oxford in 1838, was placed here, caused the abandonment of the "Old Common," although town affairs were transacted there until 1873.

In 1860 the leading industry, aside from agriculture and the manufacture of textile fabrics, was that of shoe-making. The war and other causes led to its decline. This occupation is still followed, but the capital employed and the amount produced is comparatively small. L. B. Corbin & Co. employ forty-five workmen, and produce shoes to the value of \$80,000 per year. A. L. Joslin & Co. employ one hundred and forty workmen, and the value of shoes made by this firm is \$140,000 per year.

The Oxford Bank was incorporated as a bank of discount and deposit, with a capital of \$100,000, on Feb. 8, 1823. On March 13 of the same year organization was effected, at a meeting held in Richard Olney's inn. Until 1856 the affairs of the bank were conducted in a dwelling-house owned by the bank, in which lived Sumner Bastow, the first cashier; after that time in the present building, erected solely for banking purposes. It was changed from a State to a national bank on January 2, 1865. First board of directors: Jonathan Davis, Richard Olney, Andrew W. Porter, Daniel Tourtellot, Nathan Hurd, Aaron Tufts, Jeremiah Kingsbury, Henry Sargent, Joseph Thayer. Presidents were elected in this order: Jonathan Davis, 1823; Richard Olney, 1833; Aaron Tufts, 1836; Alexander DeWitt, 1843; John Wetherell, 1848; John Jewett, 1849; Emory Sanford, 1857; Charles A. Angell, 1864; Samuel C. Paine, 1873. Cashiers: Sumner Bastow, 1823; Alvan G. Underwood, 1845; Wilson Olney, 1855; C. A. Angell, 1873.

Oxford became a post-town in 1801, and the following have been post-masters: Samuel Campbell, Archibald Campbell, William Sigourney, James G. Scott, Willard Benson, Emory Sanford, William E. Pease.

The largest and best public building is Memorial Hall, erected at a cost of \$25,000, in 1873. It is built of brick and sandstone, in a conventional style of architecture, with porch and tower. In the upper part is a hall with seating capacity of eight hundred; in the lower are offices for town officials and the public library.

In 1868 the Hon. Ira Moore Barton gave, in his will, one thousand dollars to found a public library. The gift was accepted on April 6, 1868, and the library established in 1870. It contains 2,300 volumes, and is supported by town grants.

To the circulating library was added, in 1877, through the liberality of George L. Davis, Esq., of North Andover, a reference department, at an expense of \$500.

The town has twelve schools—eight primary or mixed, three grammar and

one high — under the control of a committee of three. Four thousand dollars were appropriated for schools in 1878. The school children number about five hundred.

Early in the history of the town many of the present mill-sites and water-privileges were occupied, and consequent upon their improvement villages sprung up on the different water-courses. East of Oxford Plain, on the outlet of Slater's Reservoir, called Mill Brook, a small stream flowing westerly, was, formerly, a scythe-mill, owned by David Lilley. Below, on the same brook, was a nail-mill, operated before and after 1808 by Rufus Moore, where nails without heads were made by hand. On Mill Brook, also further west, was a grist-mill, now owned and operated by Ebenezer Rich; and, at the southern limit of the plain, Thomas Davis built on the "Old Mill Place," as the site of the old Huguenot Mill is called, a fulling and cloth-finishing mill. The two first named privileges are not now occupied; the latter has been variously improved to the present time, the last manufacture being that of twine.

In the western part of the town, two miles from Oxford Village, near the Charlton line, on Little River, is Buffumsville. The land in and surrounding this village was formerly owned by John Nichols, who died in the year 1800, when the property was divided among his heirs. Jonathan and Alexander Nichols came into the possession of about ninety acres and the privilege on Little River. In about the year 1812 they built a dam and saw-mill, the latter on the north side of the river. In 1818 a grist-mill was built on the same side of the river, and about that time blacksmith shops were erected on the opposite side and supplied with two trip-hammers, a grindstone and three pairs of bellows; in which shops scythes were made, and afterwards axes and hoes. Either Sylvanus Pratt or William Smith was the first to lease the blacksmith works. Afterwards Joab Maynard was the lessee. Scythes were made at this place from 1818 to 1824. In 1823 Stearns Witt purchased the privilege and twenty-nine acres of land in the immediate vicinity, for himself and three brothers, Hollis, Archibald and Alexander. They sold to James Farwell, in 1824, one-third of the privilege, four acres of land and the blacksmithing establishment. Farwell was in possession until about 1830, when his interest reverted to the Witts. In 1825 the latter erected on the north side of the river a building for the manufacture of cotton thread, under the firm name of "Stearns Witt & Brothers." Afterwards this name was changed by authority to DeWitt. The thread-mill contained six hundred spindles.

In 1830 Waters & Davis succeeded Farwell in the iron works, and continued it two years. Their successors were Putnam, Taylor & Co., who remained about two years. The Hunt Brothers came next, and made axes. The blacksmith shops were soon after removed, and working in iron and steel was no longer an industry in the village. In 1832 or 1833 Samuel Dowse and Franklin Campbell bought an interest in the thread manufacture, and the firm name became S. DeWitt, Brothers & Co., and in the year following S.



DeWitt, Brothers & Co. & Harrison. In 1837 Elias B. Crawford became a partner in the firm. The mill was burnt in 1842, and during the same year Crawford bought the property, and in the year following began the erection of the building, now standing, to continue the manufacture of thread. When nearly completed, in 1847, the mill was sold to Charles L. Harding, who put in woolen machinery, and began the manufacture of broadcloths and doeskins. In 1852 Harding sold to Moses Buffum and Edward Thayer, who, under the firm-name of Buffum & Thayer, continued the manufacture of broadcloths and doeskins. In 1855 Buffum became sole owner, and continued the business until 1863, when a son, M. H. Buffum, was admitted to the firm, and in 1868 another son, C. H. Buffum. M. Buffum & Sons were proprietors until the death, in 1874, of Moses Buffum, when the sons came into possession of the mill and village property, and are the present manufacturers and owners. The present mill was enlarged and improved in 1872, and now contains four sets of machinery. Sixty operatives are employed, and the product per month is fifteen thousand yards of fancy cassimeres.

East of Buffumsville, and one mile west of Oxford Centre is Hodges Village, owned, and the mill operated by Mr. George Hodges, and situated on the bank of the Maanexit and its basin, called Angutteback Pond. The village property includes about three hundred acres. The village proper, owing to the enterprise and public spirit of the owner, has been so improved that it is one of the more attractive outlying settlements. The mill-privilege at this place was improved many years ago. Ephraim Ballard was an owner here at one time. John Nichols owned and operated a grist-mill until about the year 1800, when he was succeeded by his son, David Nichols, who continued to work the grist-mill, and added a wool-carding factory. On Jan. 26, 1826, David Nichols sold to the Oxford Woolen Company, which consisted of Sylvanus Holbrook of Northbridge, Lyman Tiffany of Boston, and Stearns DeWitt, Samuel Dowse, and Richard Olney of Oxford. The operations of the Oxford Woolen Company were attended with great prosperity for eight years. Its broadcloths and mixed goods acquired a high reputation throughout the country. Changes in the management, the "hard times" of 1837, and other causes, led to the downfall of this company, and on Feb. 2, 1846, it sold its property and privileges to the present owner. Sixty operatives are now employed in the manufacture of flannel, of which fifty thousand yards a month are produced.

Soon after the English settlement small mills were built in the northern part of the town, since called North Oxford, on the banks of the Maanexit.\* Previous to 1728, Col. Ebenezer Learned, father of Gen. Learned, built, on the site of the present Huguenot Mills, a dam and grist-mill, which remained in his possession until his death in 1772. The privilege was then owned by Capt.

\* The following facts relating to the North Oxford mills were furnished by Miss M. E. Stone, and were prepared with a view to publication by her father, Lieut. Joseph Stone, and Cyrus Lamb, Esq., both deceased.

Jeremiah Learned, son of the above, and at his death in 1812, the property passed into the hands of his sons. In 1829, Stephen Barton, Jr., was in possession, used the saw-mill, and in 1834 added a grist-mill. This was converted into a satinet-mill in 1837, and leased to Holbrook and Paul Parsons. On March 17, 1839, the mill was burned; rebuilt of wood for a cotton-factory, and leased to Royal Chapin and Orsamus Taft. It was burned a second time in March, 1852, and rebuilt of stone during the same year, and is now standing. The woollen-mill on the same privilege was built in 1848, burned in January, 1856, and rebuilt in 1858. Stephen Barton, Jr., sold this mill to H. D. Stone, and the latter to Chamberlin, McGaw & Co. Burrough & Bartlett were the next owners of both mills, and they were succeeded by O. F. Chase & Co., the present proprietors. The two mills contain twelve sets of machinery.

Above the Huguenot Mills and village, an eighth of a mile, is Phoenix village and the Sigourney Mill. In 1794 a dam and grist-mill were built by Aaron Sibley, who retained possession till his death in 1812. Joseph Stone was the next owner, rebuilt the grist-mill, and put in carding machinery and country clothiers' works, which he operated till 1821. The stones employed in the grist-mill were those used in the wind grist-mill on Prospect Hill in Auburn. This mill was sold in 1831 to Edward Denny, who manufactured satinets. In 1838 a cotton-factory was built on this site, burned in May, 1852, and the present mill built during the same year. W. A. Fisher became owner in 1843, and built the stone factory which was used for a twine-mill, afterward for weaving cotton cloth, and now for the manufacture of cotton-warps; six thousand spindles are in use. O. F. Chase & Co. were W. A. Fisher's successors in the ownership of this mill, and still retain it.

The next village above Phoenix is Rockdale. A dam and cotton-factory were built there in 1814 by the "Oxford Manufacturing Company," and used for the manufacture of cotton yarn. In 1816 it was bought by the Elliot Brothers, who sold to Asa Cutler, Calvin Leffingwell and Charles Preston in 1825, when weaving was begun. This mill was owned in 1828 by Willard Arnold, and afterwards by Samuel C. Damon till 1851; burned in 1853, and the machine-shop moved on to its site, and used as a twine-mill by W. A. Fisher. O. F. Chase & Co. are the present owners.

Above Rockdale Mill is what is called "Protection Mill," built on the site of a saw-mill owned and operated by Gen. Ebenezer Learned till his death in 1802. Thomas Parker was the next owner, and held the property till 1812, when Sylvanus Pratt bought the privilege, and added a trip-hammer. In 1813 Abijah Abbott and Jonathan Rice were in possession; and in 1831 Asa Cutler and Joseph Stafford bought and began the erection of a stone factory for the manufacture of cotton cloth, and to that end operated till 1839. Stafford then disposed of his interest to George Torrey, and Torrey afterward sold to Moies & Wilmarth. Cutler, Rogers & Co. was the firm-name until 1859, when it became Rogers & Wilmarth, and later Rhodes & Wilmarth. John Rhodes of

Millbury is the present owner and operator. The stone factory erected in 1831 was burned in 1839, and immediately rebuilt. In 1870 fire again destroyed the mill, and in 1871 the present stone structure was built. Thirty operatives are employed, and twenty thousand pounds of cotton-warp produced a month.

North of the Protection Mill is what is called "Lamb's privilege," owned by Cyrus Lamb, and in use since 1733. A grist-mill and malt-works were here until 1813, when chair-making occupied the attention of the lessee, Stephen Atwood. Cyrus Lamb was owner until his death in 1815. The mill was burned in 1832, and never rebuilt.

It was one of the earliest built grist-mills in town, the first being Elliot's, at the south end of the plain, built in 1715. Thomas Davis erected one at the site of the present Rich's mill about 1750, and another was built as early, it is believed, at the present Hodges Village by Mr. Ballard.

Still farther north, a quarter of a mile above the Lamb property, is the privilege formerly owned by the heirs of Abisha Learned. In 1803 a dam and saw-mill were built by Sylvanus Learned, sold to Abisha Learned in 1810, and by him a stone factory was erected, and leased to the Denny Manufacturing Company; burned in 1833; rebuilt in the same year, and used for the manufacture of broadcloths till 1844, when it was converted into a cotton-mill, with sixty looms; again burned in 1850, and in 1872 the property was purchased by O. F. Chase & Co.

Above the Lamb privilege is the site of Luther Stone's grist and saw mill, built before the Revolution, and since owned and operated by the Stone descendants.

The post-office in North Oxford was established in 1837, and the following have served as postmasters: Abisha Learned, 1837; Loren C. Parks, 1851; Stephen Barton, Jr., 1853; Thomas Harrington, 1856. Luther Clemence was appointed in 1857, and remained in office three months, when, in May, 1857, he was succeeded by Miss M. E. Stone, the present incumbent.

In the war of the Rebellion, the town of Oxford was represented by two hundred and ninety-three of its citizens, although only two hundred and sixty-six were demanded by the Government. The first town meeting held to consider war measures was called on May 6, 1861, when it was voted to raise four thousand dollars to defray the expenses of organizing a military company, and a committee, consisting of Alexander DeWitt, Emory Sanford, George Hodges, Jr., Samuel C. Paine, W. E. Pease, Charles A. Angell, Ira Harrison, and Elisha Smith, was appointed to carry the vote into effect. On November 8, the town voted "to pay the balance of board-bills due individuals for boarding soldiers."

In the year 1862, it was voted "to pay a bounty of one hundred and fifty dollars to all men who had enlisted for three years' service, and the same amount to all who should enlist within three days; to all who should enlist within one week, one hundred and twenty-five dollars, and, to those who



enlisted after that date, one hundred dollars," until the quota — thirty-eight — was filled. On August 27, the town offered one hundred and fifty dollars "to each volunteer who shall enlist during the week, and one hundred dollars to all who enlisted thereafter."

On April 6, 1863, it was voted to continue State aid to families of volunteers, and to aid families of drafted men.

In June, 1864, the town voted "to give each man one hundred and twenty-five dollars when mustered into service, if there is a call for more troops."

The town furnished eight commissioned officers. The whole amount raised for war purposes was \$22,372.09; for State aid during the war, \$20,223.12.

On marble tablets, in the porch of Memorial Hall, are the names of the sixty-one soldiers who lost their lives in the last war:—Sergt. Luther C. Torrey, Sergt. Amos H. Shumway, Corp. John Toomey, Corp. Edwin A. Martin, Julius N. Bellows, Josiah C. Brown, Daniel V. Childs, Jacob L. Childs, John Dore, Francis A. Fletcher, Chester J. Smith, Estes E. Baker, James D. Adams, James O. Bartlett, Valentine Suter, Edwin Cudworth, Henry C. Hayden, Amos P. Newton, Jr., William Robbins, John Tully, Albert Foscett, George Bacon, Samuel C. Smith, William Biggs, William H. N. Cady, Stephen Eager, Patrick Hogan, Patrick Holden, Rufus Vickers, Christopher Vickers, Nelson Bartholomew, Edward Booth, George W. Cross, George P. Davis, James H. Davis, Alfred W. Davis, Edward Ennis, Patrick Elliott, Herbert N. Fuller, Joseph E. Fellows, James Hilton, Joseph Jennison, Jr., Henry Kock, Cyrus Larned, Albert S. Moffit, Elliot F. McKinstry, Antonio Phillips, Francis C. Pope, Lyman Phipps, Vernon F. Rindge, Edwin F. Rindge, George O. Raymond, Jerome P. Southwick, Bernard Schmidt, Felix Sherbino, George Shortsleeve, Samuel Thompson, Conrad M. Tower, Charles H. Wheelock, George S. Williams, Albert S. Williams.

Members of Constitutional Conventions:—Ebenezer Learned and Ezra Bowman, 1799; Richard Olney, 1820; Alexander DeWitt, 1853, 1856.

Members of the State Senate:—Ira Barton, 1833, 1834; Alexander DeWitt, 1842, 1844, 1850, 1851; A. G. Underwood, 1855; Nathaniel Eddy, 1860; Alexander DeWitt, 1867.

Representatives to the General Court:—Richard Moore, 1721; Ebenezer Learned, 1726, 1730; Samuel Davis, 1743; Benjamin Davis, 1749; Ebenezer Learned, 1751; Duncan Campbell, 1752 to 1755, inclusive; Edward Davis, 1756, 1757; Duncan Campbell, 1758; Edward Davis, 1759, 1760, 1761, 1763; Josiah Wolcott, 1764, 1765, 1766; Edward Davis, 1767 to 1771, inclusive; Jeremiah Learned, 1772, 1773; Ebenezer Learned, 1774; Edward Davis, 1775; William Campbell, 1776; Edward Davis and William Hancock, 1777; William Hancock, 1778; Edward Davis, 1779, 1780; Ebenezer Learned, 1783; Jeremiah Learned, 1784 to 1793, inclusive; James Butler, 1794, 1795; Sylvanus Town, 1798 to 1806, inclusive; Abijah Davis, 1807, 1808; Abijah Davis and James Butler, 1809; Abijah Davis, 1810 to 1821, inclusive; Rich-

ard Olney, 1826; Jonathan Davis, 1827, 1828; Jonathan Davis and Richard Olney, 1829; Ira Barton and Alexander DeWitt, 1830, 1831, 1832; Stephen Barton and Benjamin F. Campbell, 1836; Sylvanus Harris and Francis Sibley, 1838, 1839; Ebenezer Rich and Alexander C. Thurston, 1840, 1841; Emory Sanford, 1842; Israel Sibley, 1843; Jasper Brown, 1844; Erastus Ormsby, 1845; David Barton, 1846; Jonas Bacon, 1847; Paul Perkins, 1849; David Wait, 1850; Albert A. Cook, 1851; Thomas Appleby, 1852; Emory Sanford, 1853; David Barton, 1854; James M. Sanford, 1855; George W. Hartwell, 1856; Lament B. Corbin, 1857; Ira Merriam, 1859; Seth Daniels and George Hodges, 1860; Moses Stone, 1862; Moses S. Johnson, 1863; Archibald Campbell, 1864; Lament B. Corbin, 1867; George Hodges, 1873; George F. Daniels, 1875, 1876; Samuel C. Paine, 1878.

John Campbell, the first minister in Oxford, was a native of Scotland, born in the year 1690, and was educated at the University of Edinburgh, where he was an intimate friend of Lord Loudon, who was John Campbell, fourth earl of Loudon, Baron Manchlane, one of the sixteen peers of Scotland. From this and other facts, it is believed that John Campbell of Oxford was the fifth earl of Loudon. No citizen of Oxford was more highly regarded by church and town's people, or did more to shape and purify society than John Campbell. Not only was he a spiritual law-giver, honored and revered, but also acted in a judicial capacity, with respect to civil affairs. He was physician, clergyman and judge. "He was esteemed one of penetrating and discerning understanding, of a peculiarly sagacious and enterprising genius, and of a very retentive memory, as furnished with embellishing arguments, and more especially for his acquaintance with the affairs of history and State policy." The following epitaph is inscribed on his tombstone: —

"Intoom'd lieth ye body of ye Rev'd Mr. John Campbell, who died May 25th, 1761, in ye 71 y<sup>r</sup> of his age. He was born in ye north of Scotland, educated & had ye benefits and Honors of University. Came to N. England A.D. 1717, and was ordained Pastor of ye Church in Oxford A.D. 1721, where, with great wisdom & fidelity, he continued to Execute ye several parts of his offices for more than 40 years. In his last sickness he sustained ye prospect of his approaching death with great serenity, as Knowing Him in whom he had believed.

The sweet remembrance .  
of ye just  
Shall flourish when  
they sleep in dust."

Ebenezer Learned was born in Oxford in 1728. In 1776, he had attained the rank of colonel, and, during the same year, was disabled while in service in Dorchester, for which he received a pension. In April, 1777, he was commissioned brigadier-general, and placed in command of the Northern army, which position he held till the surrender of Burgoyne in October, 1777. He was highly respected and beloved by the soldiers of his command, and was

distinguished for his bravery and humanity. Gen. Learned died on April 1, 1801, at his home in North Oxford, aged seventy-three years, "and lies buried near his father, Col. Ebenezer Learned, on Oxford Plain, where also lie his family and friends."

Ira Moore Barton was born in Oxford on Oct. 25, 1796; was graduated at Brown University in 1818; studied law with Gen. Bridgman in Providence, R. I., and Gov. Lincoln in Worcester; received the degree of bachelor of laws from Harvard University in 1822; was admitted to the bar in 1822, and "passed through the several grades of professional dignity up to that of counsellor of the Supreme Court." He represented Oxford in the General Court several years in succession; was a State Senator, and in 1834 was one of the commissioners appointed to revise the statutes. In 1836, he was appointed by Gov. Everett to succeed Nathaniel Paine as judge of probate, which office he held for eight years. He was chosen Presidential Elector in 1840. He died on July 18, 1867.

Alexander DeWitt was born in New Braintree on April 2, 1798. For many years, he was closely allied with the manufacturing interests of Oxford, and he may be reckoned as having been among the most successful business men of the southern part of Worcester County. In 1830, Col. DeWitt represented Oxford in the General Court as a Democrat, and remained in office six years; and, as a Republican, served the town in the same capacity in 1842, 1844, and 1850. In 1851 and 1869, he was elected to the State Senate, and, in 1853 and 1856, was a member of conventions held to amend the Constitution. In 1856 and 1857, he represented Worcester South District in Congress. He was connected with railway corporations, banks, insurance companies, and other organizations, either as president or director, for twenty-five years. He died on Jan. 13, 1879.

Statistics: — Population, 1820, 1,562; 1830, 2,031; 1850, 2,334; 1875, 2,938; polls, 843; voters, 686; families, 691; dwellings, 510; farms, 141; acres cultivated, 2,984; acreage of farms, 11,855; horses, 150; cows, 331; sheep, 75; value of agricultural products, \$145,936; value of farm property, \$539,962; capital invested in manufactures, \$394,025; persons employed in manufactures, 790; value of products of manufactures, \$1,207,578; value of personal estate, \$442,912; value of real estate, \$1,015,570; total valuation, \$1,458,482; rate of taxation, 1879, \$12.50 per \$1,000.



# P A X T O N .

BY GEORGE A. STOCKWELL, A. M.

## CHAPTER I.

### EARLY HISTORY AND INCORPORATION — CHARLES PAXTON — THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION.

THE town of Paxton, on and between rugged and wooded hills, lies nearly in the centre of the county, seven miles from the city of Worcester, and fifty-two from Boston ; bordered on the north-west by Rutland, on the north-east by Holden, on the south by Worcester and Leicester, and on the west by Spencer and Oakham.

The founders of the town of Paxton were inhabitants of Rutland and Leicester, respectively ; and, living on the outskirts of these towns, remote from the county road, which was reached only by paths through the woods and fields, their attendance upon public meetings was irregular, and caused them great inconvenience. For these reasons, they desired to be incorporated into a town, or district, in order to have authority to build a meeting-house easier of access than the one in either Leicester or Rutland. Accordingly, in 1761, a petition was presented to the General Court by the inhabitants living in the southern part of Rutland, and the northern part of Leicester, praying to be incorporated into a separate municipality, giving as a reason, "the great difficulties they labor under in attending public worship, by reason of the great distance they were from its places in the towns to which they belong." This petition was not successful, and in 1762, a similar one, headed by Jeremiah Howe of Leicester, was presented. This also was dismissed. In 1763, a third application was made giving similar reasons, and the additional one, "that the land prayed for in Leicester was set off by a town vote, for the ends proposed at a town meeting held on May 16, 1763." An order of notice was served on the town of Rutland, but as that town objected to granting the prayer of the petitioners, the General Court again gave them leave to withdraw.

A fourth petition, however, was presented for an act of incorporation, signed by "Oliver Witt and others, inhabitants, some of them of Leicester, others

of Rutland, setting forth the great difficulties they labor under by living at such a distance from the place of public worship in the several towns to which they belong, none of them living less than three miles distant, one only excepted, and some of them four, and many of them five miles distant, and the way bad; and praying that they may be erected into a distinct town, or district, or precinct, by certain bounds in said petition mentioned." In response to this appeal, "it was ordered that Jedediah Foster of Brookfield, and Col. Williams on the part of the House, and Benjamin Lincoln of the Council, be a committee, in the recess of this court to repair to the place petitioned for, to be erected into a parish at the charge of the petitioners, and that they hear all parties interested for and against said corporation, and report at the next session whether the prayer thereof should be granted." This committee reported in favor of the petitioners on Jan. 23, 1765, and a bill entitled, "'An Act for Incorporating the Southerly Part of Rutland, and the Northerly Part of Leicester in the County of Worcester, into a District by the Name of Paxton,' passed both branches of the Legislature to be enacted; and on the twelfth day of February, Anno Regni Georgii Tertii, Quinto 1765, was approved by the governor, Francis Bernard, and Paxton was authorized to take its place among the incorporated municipalities of the Commonwealth, vested with all the powers, privileges, and immunities which the inhabitants of any town in this Province do, or by law ought to enjoy, excepting only the privilege of sending a representative to the General Assembly." The charter gave the new district the right to join with the town of Leicester, and the precinct of Spencer in choosing representatives to the General Court.

The territory petitioned for was described as "two miles off each town — Leicester and Rutland — to make up the contents of four miles square." A part of Holden was annexed to Paxton on Feb. 13, 1804, and another part on April 9, 1839. A part of the south-western part of Rutland was also joined to Paxton, and the line between the towns altered in other places by the Legislature on May 24, 1851, and on Feb. 20, 1829. The present territory includes 8,541 acres.

When the bill for incorporating this town passed the House of Representatives, no name was inserted; the blank was filled in the Council by the word Paxton, in honor of Charles Paxton, who, at that time, was marshal of the Admiralty Court, and a friend and favorite of Francis Bernard, the governor, and of Thomas Hutchinson, the deputy governor. It is said that Paxton promised the town a church bell if it was named for him; this promise was never fulfilled. "Charles Paxton, although polished in manners, and of pleasing address, was an intriguing politician, and a despicable sycophant; 'every man's humble servant, but no man's friend,' as his proper figure was labelled, when on Pope's day, as the anniversary of the gun-powder plot was called, it was paraded through the streets of Boston, standing between the effigies of the Pope and the Devil. He was the tool of Charles Townshend, the chancel-

lor of the exchequer and with him devised the scheme of raising a revenue from the colonies by a tax on glass, paper, painter's colors and tea," which passed both houses of Parliament and was approved by the king on June 29, 1767, which act also led the Colonies to abstain from the use of English goods, and caused the destruction of tea in Boston harbor on June 16, 1773. "The passage of this bill," says Barry, "was forwarded by the influence of Paxton, a citizen of Boston, who had been sent from America, at the instance of Bernard and Hutchinson, and Oliver, to appear as advocate of the officers of the crown, and to mature a scheme for a Board of Customs," at the head of which Paxton was placed, "for a pecuniary consideration, as he was a place-hunter, bought and sold office with money, and was as rapacious as the fabled harpy." Paxton was particularly active in the issuing of writs of assistance, by which officers of the customs were fully authorized to enter any and all buildings to search for, and to seize, any and all goods and merchandise supposed to have been smuggled; and his course was so insolent and tyrannical, that he became an object of public hatred, was hung in effigy upon Liberty tree (a large elm that stood at the junction of Essex and Washington streets, Boston), driven by the wrath of the people into Castle William, left Boston at the time of its evacuation by the British troops, and died in England at the age of eighty-four years in 1788. There is a portrait of Paxton by Wainwright, in possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston; also, one attributed to Copley in the hall of the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester. One of the earlier public acts of the town was to appoint a committee "to petition the General Court for a name more agreeable to the inhabitants and the public than that of Paxton"; and it is a source of regret, even at this time, to the citizens of Paxton, that either the committee, chosen for that purpose, or the Legislature, neglected its duty.

The call for the first meeting of the inhabitants was addressed to Phineas Moore, and signed by John Murry, justice of the peace, of Rutland. The first meeting was held on March 11, 1765, at the house of Mr. John Snow, a half mile east of the present centre, innholder, and the following officers elected: Selectmen, Capt. Oliver Witt, Ephraim Moore, Capt. Samuel Brown, Timothy Barrett, Abraham Smith; clerk, Ephraim Moore; wardens, William Thompson, Jonathan Knight; assessors, Capt. Oliver Witt, Ephraim Moore, Aaron Hunt; constable, Jason Livermore; surveyors of highways, Ebenezer Hunt, Jr., Elijah Howe, Thomas Cutler; tythingmen, Samuel Mann, Ralph Earle; treasurer, Ephraim Moore; hog-reeves, Jonathan Moore, William Martin; deer-reeves, James Ames, William Whittaker; pound-keeper, James Knight. Field-drivers, fence-viewers, sealer of weights and measures, sealer of leather, sealer of boards and shingles were also appointed.

Aside from making grants for and establishing a town church — a sketch of which is given elsewhere — nothing of particular interest appears on the records until 1774. In the warrant issued on Aug. 8, 1774, is this article:



"To see if the District will act on Public Affairs in any method which may be then proposed, or laid before them respecting the differences which Subsist between Great Britain and the Colonies." At the meeting called by this warrant, "it was proposed and Put to Vote (after the act of Parliament for regulating the Government of Massachusetts Bay had been read) to see if the district are willing said act of Parliament should take Place, and Passed unanimously in the negative." At the same meeting it was voted to observe a day of fasting and prayer "on account of the threatening aspect of our public affairs."

At a subsequent meeting a committee on public affairs was appointed, consisting of Lieut. Willard Moore, Dea. Oliver Witt, Capt. Ralph Earle, Phineas Moore and Abel Brown. On Sept. 23, 1774, "it was voted in town meeting to buy two half barrels of gun-powder in addition to the present stock." On Dec. 26, 1774, committees of correspondence and safety were chosen, the duty of the former of which was to keep the district informed of the Acts of Congress and State government, and the latter was very vigilant in watching suspected Tories, of whom there were several in town; also, at the same meeting, it was voted to raise £21 14s. 7d. "for the Defence of this District in Particular & the province in General."

The able-bodied men of the district, capable of bearing arms, were formed into two companies, the "Standing Company," of which Ralph Earle was captain, John Snow, lieutenant, and Abel Brown, ensign; and the "Minute Company," which was fully armed and equipped, and often exercised in military tactics; and for its time and expenses spent and incurred in training, the district appropriated money. On Jan. 16, 1775, £15 was raised for this purpose; also, at the same meeting, a committee was chosen "to draft out thirty-three men to be erected into a Minute Company."

Following is a copy of the original "Minute Men Agreement at Snow's, 1775:" —

"We the Subscribers Do Engage for to Joyn the Minute Men of this District & to March with them Against our Common Enimys when we are call'd for, if so be that the Minute Compenys are kept up as witness our hands.

"Marmaduke Earle,  
Jonah Newton,  
David Goodenow, Jr.,  
Abijah Brown,  
Joseph Knight,  
Clark Earll,  
Nathan Swan,  
Jonah Howe,  
Ithemar Biglow,  
John Davis,  
John Pike,

Phineas Moore,  
Ebenezer Hunt,  
Thomas Lamb,  
Oliver Earll,  
Jonathan White,  
Hezekiah Newton,  
Stephen Barrett,  
Samuel ———,  
Daniel Steward,  
Joseph Prescott,  
John Flint."

On March 13, 1775, it was voted :—

“To raise £37 16s., and out of it to equip the Minute Men, and a committee was appointed to see 30 men, exclusive of officers be forthwith equipt with cartouch box & Bayonett, s'd bayonet to be well fixed to each man's gun & upon each person's being so equipt to the satisfaction of the committee then to pay each minute man so equipt the sum of 12 shillings, said minute men engaging upon receiving s'd 12 shillings that in case they do not march on the first emergency, to deliver their Cartouch box & bayonet to the committee who shall equip others.”

This company, properly organized and officered, “on the alarm of the Concord Fight,” on April 19, 1775, marched to Cambridge under the command of Capt. Willard Moore, where he, with a part of his company, enlisted in the Continental Army. Capt. Moore was promoted to the rank of major, and fell in the battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775. On April 6, 1775, Capt. Moore was chosen representative to the Provincial Congress at Concord, and instructed “to use his influence in Congress that government be assumed, in case that it shall prove certain that Great Britain intends to enforce the late act of parliament by the sword.”

When the news reached Paxton that the “Regulars” had attacked Concord and Lexington, Jason Livermore, with his three sons, was plowing in the field, and learning that the company of minute-men—Capt. Moore's—to which they belonged would march forthwith, left the field, and with the wife's and mother's pewter plates and spoons in the form of bullets, were on the road to Cambridge “in less than a minute,” and afterwards did good service on Breed's Hill. The wife and mother, left at home with a son, only twelve years of age, continued the farm work, besides excavating the earth under the barn and other buildings, and from it making more than one hundred pounds of nitre, or salt-petre for the purpose of making gunpowder, of which there was great need in the army. Mrs. Livermore died in 1825, or thereabouts, at the great age of nearly one hundred years.

Jason Livermore, already referred to, and Samuel Brewer of Sutton, raised in Paxton and Sutton a company that marched from Paxton on Aug. 9, 1776, to Charlestown, thence to Ticonderoga and Mount Hope, where it was stationed for some time.

The first representative to the General Court from Paxton was Abraham Smith, elected on May 23, 1776. On the same day the town appropriated £1 10s. for a fife and drum. On Nov. 11, 1777, it was voted to provide the families of soldiers in the Continental army with the “necessaries of life.” On Oct. 12, 1778, it was voted to raise £260 for hiring Micah Harrington and Benjamin Barrett to join the militia army; £19 for clothing, and £19 for powder and lead. In July, 1779, a committee was appointed “to hire men for the Continental army, and it was voted to give each man that went into the army £600 or \$2,400; also voted that each man that went to Rhode Island have £300 including rations and bounty, and wages that they are for to receive of the State

which will be £286 and there remains then for this town to pay the two men that have engaged to go to Rhode Island, £314." Again, in the same year, it was voted to give each soldier £800, including bounty and wages offered by the State; and also the use of a blanket while in service.

On Aug. 10, 1779, Abraham Smith was elected a delegate to the Convention at Worcester, Phineas Moore a delegate to the Convention at Concord, and Adam Maynard a delegate to Cambridge Convention.

On June 14, 1780, the town voted to hire eight men, "to go to the army at £30 a piece payable in grain and produce."

The State tax in 1780 was five thousand one hundred and twenty pounds, and in that year Phineas Moore represented the town in the General Court.

In July of this year the town voted to take from the Rev. Alexander Thayer a deed of the burying-ground. In the same year, also, the polls and estates were assessed £29,400. At this time the qualification for voting was the possession of £60 worth of property, or an annual income of three pounds. At the first State election the town cast twenty-four votes for John Hancock for governor, and seventeen for Azor Orne for lieutenant-governor. On Oct. 26, 1780, the town voted to purchase four thousand eight hundred pounds of beef for the army, and the inhabitants were assessed seven thousand five hundred pounds to pay for it; also on Dec. 28, nine thousand two hundred and sixteen pounds of beef were furnished. During this year and previous years, meetings were held frequently for various purposes, of which no record was kept. On April 11, 1781, the price of a bushel of Indian corn was fixed at forty-five dollars.

In 1781, Capt. Adam Maynard was elected representative to the General Court. In the same year, July 10, "£100 was voted for 3,804 pounds of beef for the army; two pounds per month for soldiers to Connecticut; and on September 10, five men were sent to Rhode Island, and given each 280 hard dollars." During this year and the year that followed, many petitions were presented to the General Court for abatement of taxes, with what result is not known. In 1782, Artemas Howe was chosen a delegate to the Convention at Worcester.

At the beginning of the Revolution Paxton contained about five hundred inhabitants. During that struggle it furnished its full quotas of men, from three to eight for different lengths of service, and twice it was called upon to furnish eight each time. Besides these there were many volunteers. From the records it appears that Paxton paid nearly ten thousand dollars for hiring men, and for clothing and military stores demanded by the government, in addition to the amounts paid into the State and other treasuries. "In short, it did its full share in resisting the encroachments which its infamous namesake had labored so assiduously to make upon American liberty; and although its individual and municipal sufferings were extreme, and sometimes almost intolerable, its patriotism never flagged, and it evinced by its conduct a determination to die or be free. And history, if just, will laud its inhabitants as



much for their untiring efforts in defence of liberty, as it may justly execrate Charles Paxton and his wicked coadjutors for their strenuous exertions for its destruction."

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## CHAPTER II.

PHYSICAL FEATURES — INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS — CHURCH HISTORY — SCHOOLS  
AND LIBRARY — THE CIVIL WAR.

THE land surface of Paxton, although broken and irregular, is so diversified by hill, wooded tract and far-stretching intervals, and so disposed with respect to its agricultural advantages, that it not only possesses great natural beauty, but also affords ample scope and opportunity for the husbandman.

On the east is Asnebumskit Hill, the highest elevation, except Wachusett, in this part of the county. The view from its summit is wide and comprehensive, "embracing in its sweep more than a score of towns and villages," and well repays the toiler-up. Asnebumskit Lake, a cold, clear, spring-fed body of water is near, and this, with the mountain, as the hill is often called, forms the most picturesque and the most romantic part of the territory of Paxton. The numerous springs that flow from the base of Asnebumskit contribute to the water supply of the city of Worcester. Of the seven lakes and ponds, Bottomly Pond, extending southward from the Centre, is the largest body of water. Springs, rivulets and brooks abound. In the northern territory a spring sends a part of its waters to the Merrimac, and another part to the Connecticut. Turkey Hill Pond is in the north-west, and on its outlet, fifty years ago, was a fulling-mill and a carding-factory. Turkey Hill, Fox Hill (near the Centre) and Pine Hill (on the north-east) serve as landmarks.

The inhabitants of Paxton are well scattered over its territory. The Centre, so called, hedges the old stage or post road, that formerly was the principal thoroughfare connecting the shire town with the northern settlements. This road, midway of the village, divides, one branch leading to Rutland on the north, and the other to Barre, on the north-west. In the angle of these two branches of the village street is the town common, on which is the Soldiers' Memorial, and facing both stands the only church edifice in Paxton. The common and most of the land occupied by the church, including the adjacent roads, was given to the town in 1791 by Seth Snow.

The town of Paxton is mainly agricultural. The soil is of average fertility, and the farms and the excellence of their dairy products are well known. The harvest of wood and the manufacture of lumber have been extensive for many years, and now receive the attention of the inhabitants during the winter months.

The manufacture of cards and of boots and shoes was the chief industry, except agriculture, for fifty years or more. In about the year 1820 the boot business was established by John Partridge. He was followed by Lakin & Bigelow, and they by R. E. Bigelow & Son. In 1875 this industry, which had given employment to a large number of the inhabitants, came to an end by fire. The manufacture of boots was afterwards feebly revived, but the number of persons employed and the amount of products is not large.

The Congregational church in this town was organized on Sept. 3, 1767, and during the same year the house of worship was built or completed. At the second meeting of the District, on April 1, 1765, twenty days after the incorporation, "it was put to vote to see if the district will Build a meeting House in said Paxton, and of what dimentions they will Build it; also to see if the district will agree upon some place for to Sett Said meeting House on." It was voted "to build a house of worship fifty feet in length and forty in width, with twenty-two foot posts, and to set the house at the Gate behind John Snow's farm in Mr. Maynard's pasture." In September of the same year £13 6s. 8d. was appropriated "for the purpose of procuring the Gospel to be preached in this place during the winter." On March 3, 1766, the sum of £250 was voted "for a meeting house, and a meeting house place"; and it was also voted "to leave the raising of the house to the generosity of the public to provide a supper, and bring it to the church." During this year — 1766 — the house was raised, and carried so far towards completion that services were held in it early in the following year. This structure stood in the centre of the common. In 1835 it was moved a few rods to the north, remodeled and a steeple added. The old church is thus described by George W. Livermore of Cambridge, in his address delivered at the hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town: —

"A plain, square structure, standing in the middle of the Common in primitive simplicity, without dome or spire, destitute of external ornament and internal embellishment, its prominent sounding-board above, and its deacon's seat, and semi-circular communion-table at the base of the pulpit — its uncarpeted aisles, and pen-like pews, with their uncushioned and hinged seats, to be turned up and let down at the rising and sitting of their occupants with a clatter sufficient to have awaked a Rip Van Winkle — its negro seats in the rear of the front gallery, and the old people's in front of the pulpit, for the use of the deaf, — its two corner pews perched aloft over the gallery staircase,

"Through which, and the scuttles above were the ways  
To the attic, the arsenal of those early days."

"It has now fallen back from its conspicuous locality to the site of its former horse-sheds, rearing its steepled head in all the grandeur and assurance of modern renovation."

In April, 1767, a committee was chosen to secure a gospel minister, and on May 4, 1767, the Rev. Silas Biglow was offered £133 6s. 8d. as a settlement,

"and a yearly salary of £53 6s. 8d., for the first four years, and £66 13s. 4d., as long as he shall continue in the relations of a gospel minister amongst us." He was ordained on Oct. 21, 1767, and remained till his death on Nov. 16, 1769. Mr. Biglow was highly esteemed for his intellectual and moral worth, greatly beloved during his life, and much lamented for years after his death. Alexander Thayer, Mr. Biglow's successor, was ordained on Nov. 28, 1770, and dismissed on Aug. 14, 1782. Mr. Thayer was a suspected royalist, and this fact, together with the difficulty that arose in paying his salary in consequence of the depreciation in the currency, rendered his pastorate unpleasant for self and people. John Foster followed Mr. Thayer as pastor of the church. He was ordained on Sept. 7, 1785, and was dismissed in April, 1789. His settlement caused a division in the church, and there were two societies until 1793, when they were reunited. Other pastors: Daniel Grosvenor, installed on Nov. 5, 1785, dismissed on Nov. 17, 1802; Gaius Conant, ordained on Feb. 17, 1808, dismissed on Sept. 21, 1831; Moses Winch, ordained on Sept. 21, 1831, dismissed on Aug. 28, 1834; James D. Farnsworth, installed on April 30, 1835, dismissed on May 7, 1840; William Phipps, ordained on Nov. 11, 1840, dismissed on March 2, 1869; Thomas L. Ellis, installed on Sept. 26, 1871, died on Nov. 12, 1873; Francis J. Fairbanks, hired in January, 1874, dismissed in October, 1877; Otis Cole, the present pastor, was hired on Jan. 1, 1878.

The town of Paxton has five ungraded schools and one grammar school, about one hundred and fifty pupils, and school property valued at three thousand dollars. One thousand dollars was appropriated for schools in the year 1879.

In 1877 a public library was founded through the influence and aid of Ledyard Bill, Esq., a resident of the town. The library contains over one thousand volumes, and is supported by donations and the annual grant of the dog fund.

A post-office was established in Paxton on Dec. 10, 1816, and Tyler Goddard appointed postmaster. He remained in office till 1841 when he was succeeded by Silas D. Harrington, who held the office till 1857. Otis Pierce was the next incumbent, and was followed in 1861 by Nathaniel Clark the present postmaster.

In the war of Rebellion, Paxton contributed seventy-four men, two of whom were commissioned officers, besides eight citizens of the town who enlisted elsewhere. The first town meeting, in reference to the war, was held on July 26, 1862, when it was voted to give a bounty of one hundred and ten dollars to each volunteer, not exceeding ten in number. On August 9, the bounty was increased eighty-five dollars. On December 8, the selectmen were authorized to pay a bounty of one hundred and ten dollars for nine months volunteers, and one hundred and sixty dollars to those who entered the service for three years.

On June 22, 1864, the town voted to give each volunteer for three years, one hundred and twenty-five dollars. Of those who volunteered in behalf of the town fifteen died while in service. Of those who enlisted elsewhere three



died, making in all twenty citizens of Paxton who lost their lives in the cause of freedom and equal rights.

In 1871, a granite shaft was erected on the common to the memory of the fallen, and bears these names:—Samuel G. Osland, George O. Peirce, John D. Peirce, Hollis H. Howe, Charles A. Harrington, Walter Shaw, Hezekiah Sargent, George R. Hubbard, Samuel W. Stratton, George W. Brown, Hiram N. Parkhurst, John S. Pratt, David W. Pratt, Nathan A. Munroe, Henry A. Brown, Daniel Cummings, Solomon R. Maynard, John S. Mills, Alvin S. Nichols, Edward E. Munroe, James D. Butler.

The centennial anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Paxton was celebrated on June 14, 1865. The Hon. George W. Livermore of Cambridge delivered an historical address, the Rev. John F. Bigelow, D. D., of Brooklyn, N. Y., made an oration, and Mr. George Gardner Phipps of Paxton read a poem.

The following have represented the town in the General Court:—Adam Smith, 1776, '84-5, '87; Phineas Moore, 1780; Adam Maynard, 1781-2; Hezekiah Ward, 1786; Nathaniel Crocker, 1806, '08-9, '11, '13, '16; M. B. Livermore, 1810; Ebenezer Estabrook, 1811; David Davis, Jr., 1814; Samuel Harrington, 1821; Tyler Goddard, 1829-30, '31, '32, '33, '34, '35, '37, '39; Artemas Howe, 1838; David Harrington, 1840; Gaius Conant, 1841, '42, '43; Samuel Harrington, 1849-50; Simon G. Harrington, 1854; David G. Davis, 1856; Ralph E. Bigelow, 1858; William Mulligan, 1861, '70; John C. Bigelow, 1866.

The Hon. George W. Livermore of Cambridge, Mass., a native of the town, was graduated at Harvard University, entered the law and was skilled in his profession.

The Rev. John F. Bigelow, D. D., a native of Paxton is entitled to honorable mention in its history. He was born at the Bigelow homestead in the year 1818; was graduated at Brown University and Theological Seminary; entered the ministry and attained eminence. Dr. Bigelow is principal of the Atheneum Seminary in Brooklyn, N. Y. He is chiefly noted for his wide scholarship and high character.

Dr. Andrew J. Howe was born in Paxton on April 14, 1826: was graduated at Harvard University in 1853, and studied medicine in the cities of New York and Philadelphia. Dr. Howe is professor of surgery in the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, Ohio. He is known as the author of several works on surgery.

Statistics:—Area 8,541 acres; population, 1790, 558; 1800, 582; 1820, 613; 1850, 820; 1860, 725; 1875, 600; polls, 184; voters, 159; families, 115; dwellings, 140; farms, 76; acres cultivated, 1,619; acreage of farms, 7,619; cows, 285; sheep, 23; horses, 148; value of farm property, \$287,632; value of agricultural products, \$69,610; value of personal estate, \$42,669; value of real estate, \$239,890; total valuation, \$282,559; rate of taxation, \$11 per \$1,000. The town is free from debt.

# PETERSHAM.

BY GEORGE W. HORR, LL. B.

## CHAPTER I.

THE ORIGINAL PLANTATION — FIRST SETTLERS — INDIAN RELATIONS — INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN — APPROACH OF THE REVOLUTION — GROWTH AND VIGOR OF THE COMMUNITY — LIBERAL SPIRIT — EARNEST PATRIOTISM — THE LATER WARS — REBELLION RECORD.

THE present territory of the town of Petersham, including the portion set off to form part of the town of Dana, embracing rather more than six miles square, was granted to seventy-one persons, who became proprietors in this plantation in April, 1733. It was called, until it was incorporated a town, Nichewaug. Thomas Farmer, Henry Coulburn, Jonathan Farrar, Samuel Shaddock, Samuel Trull (sometimes written Terril), Jacob Corey, Joshua Webster, Abiel Foster, Samuel Tarbol were admitted among the proprietors, although not petitioners, and among the petitioners Edward Hartwell, Joseph Wright, Joseph Wheelock, Robert Phelps, and Jonathan Houghton, Jr., were excluded from becoming grantees. The petition reads as follows: —

*“To His Excellency Jonathan Belcher Esqr Captain General & Governour in Chief In & Over His Majestis Province of the Massachusetts Bay, the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Council & Representatives In Gen<sup>l</sup> Court assembled at Boston April the 5<sup>th</sup> 1733:*

“The memorial of John Bennet & Jeremiah Perley for themselves and the Reste of the persons whose Names are hereunto subscribed: Humbly Showeth That whereas your memorialists In the month of January 1731 & at the Beginning of this present session; viz., In May laste Severally prefered their Petishons or memorials to your Excel<sup>cy</sup> & Honours seting forth the Hardship & Difficult marches they underwent as volunteers under the Comand of the Late Cap<sup>te</sup> Lovell & Cap<sup>te</sup> White after the Inden Enemy and Into their Countrey & praying In consideration thereof to be favoured with the Grant of a township & as by the several Petishons aforesaid will fully aper unto which the memorialistes would Refer, & Inasmuch as Nothing has Ben acted or Done thareon for the Benifit of the memorialists by your Excellency & Honours They are therefore Nesesitated once more to apley to your Excellency & Honours Humbly praying

that you will be pleased to take the Case of the memorialists into your wise and Gracious Consideration that so their former petitions may be Received & Reconsidered & that they may meet with Such Due Encouragement for their Past Service by the favour of your Excellency & Honours as to have the Grant of a township of six miles square in the unappropriated Lands of Province they being a competent Number for such a settlement;—& the place which they are Desirous to settle on if it be your Excellency & Honours Pleasure is situated In the Western parte of this Province beginning six miles from Rutland northwest Corner to the westward thereof & Running to the westward six miles & bounding southerly on Rutland Township which will leave and well accommodate the settlers for a town between this & the Narowganset township your memorialists being vary willing & desirous to be subject to such Conditions Rules & Restrictions in their settlement as your Excellency and Honours shall see meet & as in Duty bound shall ever pray &c.”

Then follow the signatures.

The proprietors numbered seventy-one, and seventy-two after the minister settled upon his division, but he did not arrive until 1738. Very few of these original proprietors settled in the plantation of Nichewaug. In 1750 the names of forty-seven of the sixty-one families then actually settled in town, are given in a report to the General Court, and the name of Joseph Willson alone appears on the list of first proprietors. The conditions of the grant required only sixty families to be settled on the granted territory within three years, and the privilege of postponing actual settlement beyond the period of three years was conferred for a pecuniary consideration, paid into the proprietors' treasury. Rev. E. B. Willson, in his able address in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town, says:—

“A tradition exists that Joseph Willson built the first house in town, near the present residence of Mr. David C. Page; and I believe the tradition sometimes adds he was the first white man who spent a winter here. If Mr. Simeon Houghton, who settled on what is known as the Charles Wilder Place, was not here as early as Mr. Willson, he certainly was not much behind him. And, if Mr. Willson did really precede Mr. Houghton, there is traditional evidence that Mrs. Houghton was not preceded by Mrs. Willson, or by any other of her own sex, in the new settlement. The tradition runs that Madame Houghton, albeit not the possessor of a well-favored countenance, was gifted with a genial disposition; and that she used to say, in the *post meridian* of her life, shaking her head significantly at the fairest of the maidens around her, ‘Take no airs; I’d have you know, that the time was when I was acknowledged, without dispute, to be the handsomest woman in the town’—that time having been when there was yet no woman in the town besides Mrs. Houghton herself.”

Occasionally, the plantation of Nichewaug, in old records, is called Volunteerstown, or Voluntown, being granted to the volunteers who marched “under the Command of the Late Cap<sup>te</sup> Lovell & Cap<sup>te</sup> White after the Indian Enemy and Into their Countrey.” It is to the great credit of the pioneers of Nichewaug that they paid the Indians for all their rights and interests they claimed to have in the lands granted by the General Court to the proprietors.



This plantation never suffered from an attack by the Indians. Peter Whitney, author of a History of Worcester County, published in 1793, was the second son and child of Aaron Whitney, who was ordained minister of the Plantation of Nichewaug in December, 1738. Peter graduated at Harvard University in 1762, and was ordained pastor of the First Church in Northborough, Nov. 4, 1768, where he died suddenly Feb. 29, 1816. Whitney says : —

“The original proprietors being some of them wealthy and enterprising, they encouraged and drove on the settlement of this then infant plantation, although there were no settled towns nearer than Lancaster on the east, and Rutland to the south-east, and Brookfield to the south, except a few new settlers in Lambstown, now Hardwick. But the land being excellent, divers persons soon began to work upon lots; the proprietors built a meeting-house, and so early as the year 1733 they contracted with and settled a minister for the inhabitants, and who was supported by them until its incorporation.

“Although the prospects from the soil were very promising, and settlers moved in fast, yet they laboured under many and exceeding great disadvantages, being then so remote from any white people, from whom they could procure the necessaries of life, or derive any aid or support. While in its infancy, and struggling for life, a French war broke out, and the Indians, being always in the interest of the French, they became hostile, and began to commit depredations in various parts of the land, which occasioned the few inhabitants great fear and danger, obliging them to build forts in different parts of the town, round certain houses, into each of which a number of families moved for safety and defence, and soldiers were stationed there as a guard to the inhabitants, and to reconnoitre the country. The people used to labor on their lands in small parties, changing work with one another, having their guns by them, and these, also, they were for a long time obliged to carry with them whenever they went to the house of God for religious worship, and also to place sentinels at the doors.”

No attack was however ever made, and no white person was ever known to be killed by the Indians in Nichewaug. After peace was established between Great Britain and France, the plantation increased rapidly in population, and was incorporated with all the rights and privileges of a town, April 20, 1754, receiving the name of Petersham. There is no other town or city in the United States by the same name. This one was probably named from Petersham in England, a small parish situated in the County of Surrey, about seven miles south-west by west from London. “In the vicinity of this place are many elegant villas, particularly Petersham Lodge, formerly the residence of the Duke of Clarence.”

The first town meeting in Petersham was held on the 19th of August, 1754. Deacon Isaac Ward, Joshua Willard, John Wilder, James Clemence and Joseph Willson, constituted the first board of selectmen; Joshua Willard was elected town clerk, and Jonas Farnsworth, treasurer. From the period of the incorporation of the town to the time when *Revolution* and *Independence* were believed by a large portion of the people of Massachusetts, to be not only probable but possible, the inhabitants of Petersham were no idle spectators of

this great "preparation time." An anecdote, which vividly illustrates the spirit of the Petersham patriots, is given by Willson : —

"Early in 1768 the Massachusetts House of Representatives, after having voted an address to the King on the subject of their grievances, in terms which were deemed offensive by the government, were required to rescind their action. The vote on rescinding stood seventeen in the affirmative to ninety-two in the negative. Of course the *staunch ninety-two*, who would not take back their own words at the royal mandate, were everywhere applauded revolutionists, and the seventeen who were ready to comply were as vehemently denounced. The 'Sons of Liberty,' as they styled themselves in this town, met on the 20th of September, 1768, to dedicate a tree to the Goddess of Liberty. Having selected a thrifty young elm, they first cut off seventeen poorer branches, leaving, as they asserted, ninety-two remaining. The tree was then, with some ceremony, consecrated to liberty; and the seventeen amputated limbs were consigned to the flames, the famous 'Song of Liberty,' which began, —

'Come join hand in hand, brave Americans all,  
And rouse your bold hearts at fair liberty's call;  
No tyrannous acts shall suppress your just claim,  
Or stain with dishonor America's name,'

being sung to the tune 'Hearts of Oak.'"

The growth of Nichewaug, in everything that goes to make up the prosperity of the English-speaking race, was very successful, from the time in 1734, when the proprietors voted to confer upon Capt. Jonas Houghton valuable privileges as a proprietor, and pay him a sum of money "for making the road so feasible — from Lancaster, along on the North side of Wachusett, to the meeting of the other path, that goes from aforesaid Lancaster, along on the South side Wachusett, — as to carry comfortably, with four oxen four barrels of cider at once," to the incorporation of the town in 1754.

For the next twenty years, the town steadily increased in population and wealth; had good schools, well cultivated farms; the Congregational church; their town meetings, and were happy, prosperous, and upon every subject, save *one*, quite harmonious. The votes, as recorded in the town meetings held during these years of momentous interest, give us the key to the no uncertain voice of the inhabitants of Petersham upon the great question of the Revolution. The heroes of the town were among the very first to enlist, and many names are found in the regiment of minute-men commanded by Col. Ephraim Doolittle, who marched from here with his troops on the 19th of April, 1775, and was stationed at Cambridge.

August, 1774, the town voted to devise the most wise, prudent, virtuous and spirited ways and means for the saving of our free Constitution from destruction, by the late alarming acts of Parliament. Voted to grant the town's proportion of the money for the support of our Provincial Committee of Congress. September 13, voted to raise two companies of minute-men, of fifty

men each, exclusive of officers. December 13, voted that the town will not bargain with, or employ the Rev. Mr. Whitney to preach for them any longer.

Jan. 2, 1775, a list of fourteen Tories is given, followed by a recommendation "to every well wisher of American Liberty to break off all commercial connection with any and every such person, until they will make public recantation of their doings as aforesaid."

January 30, voted that the committee of inspection be directed to make entries of all persons who may trade with the fourteen persons under censure, and that they report the particular circumstances of any such commerce, that the town may order their names published, if they see cause. April 12, voted to warn every male inhabitant, from sixteen years old and upward, to meet at the meeting-house, with arms and ammunition, on Monday next, at 9 A. M.

May 24, voted unanimously, that the town will not hire the Rev. Mr. Whitney to preach any longer, and that he is dismissed from any further services as a minister of the gospel in this town. Chose a committee of ten to see that the public worship on the next Lord's Day, and all future worship, be not disturbed by any person or persons going into the desk, but such as shall be authorized and endorsed by the town committee.

The first town meeting not warned in the name of his majesty, the English king, was held on the 17th of July, nearly a year before the Declaration of Independence. At this time the selectmen "requested the Constable to warn and notify the freeholders, and other inhabitants that have estate of freehold in land of (the value of) forty shillings per annum, or other estate to the value of forty pounds sterling."

In May following, the voice of the town was heard still more distinctly, when a meeting was called on the 27th of that month, "to see if the inhabitants will instruct their Representative to inform the Great and General Court of this Province, that they stand ready, and are fully determined, to support the Continental Congress with their lives and fortunes, on condition they should declare the American Colonies independent of corrupt and arbitrary Great Britain." This passed in the affirmative with but one dissenting vote.

March 5, 1776, chose Col. Doolittle, Samuel Gates, Col. Grout, Ephraim Stearns, Daniel Hastings, Elisha Flagg and Joseph Gleason, a committee to manufacture saltpetre and sulphur. July 4, voted that £20 be paid to each soldier at the time of his appearing well-equipped for service.

July 26, it was voted that each soldier who enlists for the northern army, shall receive the additional bounty of six pounds. September 6, voted not to tax the soldiers who enlisted into the Continental service.

September 30, voted to establish a small-pox hospital at the house of Mr. Frederick Rogers. Also voted that thirty-nine pounds be granted as a bounty to the lately drafted soldiers.

April 4, 1777, voted twenty-four pounds, as a bounty to each soldier that enlists into the Continental service.



October 13, voted to procure kettles for the manufacture of salt; and to bring another batch of four Tories to trial as enemies of their country's liberties.

Jan. 27, 1778, voted that the town provide for families, when the head of the house is absent in the Continental service.

April 8, voted that the selectmen provide clothing for the Continental soldiers, and charge the cost to the town. Also voted, that the committee consisting of Capt. Asa Howe, Capt. Wing Spooner, Lieut. Ephraim Stearns, Lieut. Park Holland and David McLallen, hire soldiers for the Continental army, and draw their pay from the town treasury.

May 8, voted to raise two thousand pound to hire soldiers into the Continental service.

July 7, voted and granted the sum of two thousand seven hundred and thirty-eight pounds fourteen shillings to equalize the past services of the soldiers in the present war.

July 7, 1779, voted to raised six thousand pounds to pay soldiers.

Sept. 4, 1780, granted fifty-three thousand pounds be raised for paying soldiers hired by the town.

October 28, Rev. Solomon Reed was settled with a salary of one hundred pounds a year, which sum was guaranteed to have the purchasing power sufficient to pay for six hundred and sixty-six and two-thirds bushels of Indian corn.

Oct. 12, 1780, chose a committee of three to purchase beef for the army.

With the record of these votes before us, we may safely assert that few if any towns in the Commonwealth, went into the Revolutionary struggle with more patriotism, pluck and earnestness than Petersham. The pledging of their lives and fortunes were not idle words. Did space permit, it would be pleasant to gives the names of that group of sturdy men, who came to the front in the hour of trial, stood firmly up to the task and never fainted or faltered.

During all the rough and costly discipline, they never neglected the church or schools, or most of all, the welfare of the country. They poured out men and money for the cause like water; combated the small-pox; manufactured salt, sulphur and saltpetre; sent horses, beef, pork and clothing to the Continental army; sat down on the Tories heavily; and then built a new meeting-house directly after the war.

The state of political feeling in Petersham, at the time of and previous to the war of 1812, was more evenly divided between the Federalists and Democrats than in most towns of this section of the country, many of the people being in favor of that war, and ardent supporters of the government in the vigorous prosecution of the same. Of the measures adopted by the town at this time, we have no authentic account, as the records of the town during all these events have been destroyed by fire.

The following anecdote will serve to illustrate the division among the people of the town as regards their politics at that time. Sometime during the war of 1812, at the March meeting three Democratic and two Federalist selectmen had been chosen, and the former were going home, satisfied with the result, but by a little diplomacy practiced on the part of the Federalists, agents were stationed at the doors, who invited the Federalists in a whisper to remain a while longer, while the Democrats were permitted to go home without let or hindrance. When the house was sufficiently cleared of the Democrats to make it safe, a party arose (it might perhaps be termed a "Federal trick"), and said: "The law allows us seven selectmen," and after a motion to that effect the house proceeded to choose them. "The situation" was immediately discovered by the few Democrats remaining, and vigorous measures were taken to get back the absent ones. A man noted for his carefulness of his horses, and having two of them present, despatched young men on his pet animals after voters, with the unparalleled instructions, "Don't let the grass grow under their feet." The absentees were brought back one at a time; and to the oft-repeated question, "Are the votes all in?" came the response, "No," and at a moderate and independent pace another returned voter marched up and put in his ballot.

The result was the election of two more Democratic selectmen. One man was prosecuted for putting in two votes, but the charge was not proved. Another for profanity, in saying, after the meeting, "*We've beaten the d—d Feds.*" The judge at Worcester said of the latter case, "We must not draw the lines too sharp while political feeling is so intense." Oliver Clapp came home from New Bedford, where he was at work, to vote. On his return he spent the night at Bellingham, and told the story of the election at his home. Next morning, on offering to pay his bill, the landlord refused the pay, and said his report of that town meeting was liberal pay for his entertainment. This anecdote we have from the grandson of the man who was so careful of his horses, and any one who knows the man, will desire no other authentication.

The history of Petersham in the war of the Rebellion needs no eulogy from our pen, for the records of those days show the patriotic feelings which animated the citizens of this grand old town, while the blood sprinkled upon the battle-fields of Port Hudson, Ball's Bluff, Antietam and Petersburg attests the sacrifice offered upon our country's altar by the sons of Petersham. At a town meeting held May 1, 1861, the voters of the town took the following action:—

"*Resolved*, That the Town Treasurer be authorized to borrow a sum of money not exceeding three thousand dollars, to be expended, in whole, or in part under the direction of the Selectmen for the purpose of providing uniforms for a military company, and supporting the families of those volunteers, who may be called into the service of the State or United States, and that the Selectmen be authorized to pay one dollar per day to Volunteers after they are enrolled, organized and accepted by the State, for their services in drilling."

At this time there were in the town one hundred and eighty-eight persons

liable to enrolment for military duty, and the Rebellion record at the close of the war, showed that there had been one hundred and seventy-seven enlistments on behalf of the town. The fact that the total number of enlistments so nearly reached the number enrolled is indeed remarkable.

The appropriations made by the town, subscribed by individuals, and paid by drafted men, amounted to \$18,995.40. Of this amount only \$3,663.56 was refunded, leaving as the cost of the war to the town, the sum of \$15,631.84.

The roll of the soldiers dead, as far as we have been able to obtain them, are as follows:—

Joseph M. Jackson, killed at Port Hudson, June 14, 1863; Charles E. Ball, died from effects of wounds at New Orleans, June 29, 1863; Charles F. Hapgood, died at sea, Aug. 8, 1863; John F. Dennison, died at Baton Rouge, La., June 25, 1863; Dwight Lippitt, died at Brashear City, La., June 1, 1863; Wm. H. Mann, died at New Iberia, La., April 23, 1863; John B. Stevens, died at Spencer, Mass., Sept. 4, 1863; Quincy A. Shepardson, died at Baton Rouge, La., July 27, 1863; Austin C. Parmenter, died at Templeton, February, 1864; Lauriston W. Simonds, died at Amherst, Mass.; John A. Wilder, died at Worcester, Nov. 19, 1872; Henry Rathburn, died at Mound City, Ill., Sept 2, 1863; Horatio W. Sanderson, died at Columbus, Ky., Dec. 2, 1862; Dwight Ripley, killed at Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 25, 1863; J. Warren Clark, killed at Petersburg, Va., June 1, 1864; Frank L. Stowell, died at Alexandria, Va., Jan. 9, 1863; Charles Brigham, died from effects of wounds received at Antietam, Sept. 11, 1863; Hoyt Hale, died at Washington, Aug. 7, 1862; Oliver C. Gates, died at Grafton, Mass., Feb. 20, 1865; Calvin C. Barnes, died at Petersham; Edward Jackson, died at Gardner, Mass.; Solomon O. Holman, died at Greenwich, Mass., April 4, 1872; Ellis P. Amsden, died at Baton Rouge, La., Sept. 25, 1863; Jacob E. Amsden, died from effects of wounds received on the Red River campaign, June 3, 1864; Zebina Cutler, died at New Orleans, Aug. 9, 1862; James Forbes, killed at Port Hudson, June 14, 1863; Charles A. Stone, died at New Orleans, Aug. 4, 1863; Horace F. Pike, died at Port Hudson, June 13, 1863; George A. Davis, killed at Ball's Bluff, Va., Oct. 21, 1861; Charles E. Johnson, killed at New Market, Va., May 15, 1864; Silas Richardson, died at Andersonville, Ga., Oct. 26, 1864; George H. Holman, died at Jacksonville, Fla., Nov. 16, 1864; Edward Arnold, died at Boston, Dec. 19, 1872; Almond Williams, died at Barre, June 5, 1874; Edward Whitney, died at Petersham, July 1865; Joseph Roe, killed at Atlanta, Ga., July 30, 1864.

Also the following have died within the few years last past: Asa F. Ellis, George W. Jillson, George D. Mason, Henry B. Williams, Jonas Brown, and Charles Smith.

The regiments to which most of the soldiers belonged were the second, third, thirty-fourth, and fifty-third. Company F, fifty-third regiment, was commanded by Capt. John G. Mudge, and the soldiers mostly belonged to the towns of Petersham and Barre.



## CHAPTER II.

RELIGIOUS HISTORY — MINISTERIAL SUCCESSION — DENOMINATIONS — SCHOOLS — STATISTICS — WORTHY AND NOTED CITIZENS — LOCAL NOTES — PHYSICAL FEATURES AND TOPOGRAPHY.

THE religious history of Petersham, like that of so many of our New England towns, occupies a prominent part of the history of the town.

As early as 1733, at the second meeting of the proprietors of Petersham, it was voted to build a meeting-house, and this, although not completed for several years, was probably far enough advanced to be used for Sunday worship in the spring of 1736, and it is probable that the first preaching was held in the month of May of that year, for, on the 16th of June, Mr. Ephraim Keith was paid "fifty shillings a day for three days preaching past," and a committee was chosen to hire a minister for one year. In the summer of 1738, the committee were instructed to "treat with a minister in order for a settlement." And on the 6th of September of that year, it was voted at a proprietors' meeting "to settle an Orthodox minister in this place." Mr. Aaron Whitney was chosen as the minister, and received as a settlement a proprietor's lot with £200 pounds in money, and an annual salary of £150. The church was gathered in October, 1738, and consisted of fifteen male members. Mr. Whitney was ordained in December of that year, and preached acceptably to his people until, when the storm of the approaching Revolution was gathering, he espoused the royal cause, and in his sermons and prayers inculcated submission to King George III. As he persisted in this course, at length the popular indignation rose to such a pitch, that the church was rent with dissensions, and public worship was neglected. In 1774 he was dismissed from the parish, but refused to accept his papers, and by the vote of the town, Peter Gore, a half-breed Indian was stationed at the meeting-house door, with a musket to keep the Tory preacher from entering. He afterwards preached at his own house regularly, to those who sympathized with the royal cause, and claimed to be the minister of the town up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1779, in the sixty-sixth year of his age.

The second minister of the First Church was Rev. Solomon Reed, who graduated at Yale College in 1775, and was ordained as pastor of the church in Petersham, Oct. 28, 1780. He is represented as being a man of "superior mental power, and of great independence and freedom in his conduct and modes of expression." He served as pastor until the 25th of June, 1800, when he was succeeded by Rev. Festus Foster, who was ordained as pastor Jan. 13, 1802, and dismissed Nov. 26, 1817. The ministers of the First Church since that date have been Rev. Luther Willson, installed June 23, 1819, dismissed Oct. 18, 1834: Rev. George R. Noyes who served from October, 1834 to 1841; Rev.

Nathaniel Gage, installed Oct. 6, 1841, dismissed 1845; Rev. Ephraim Nute, Jr., ordained Oct. 15, 1845, dismissed in 1848; Rev. Martin W. Willis, installed May, 1848; Rev. John J. Putnam, installed in 1852; Rev. Seth Saltmarsh, Rev. Daniel F. Goddard and Rev. Thomas D. Howard. Rev. Lyman Clark, the present pastor, was installed Oct. 18, 1874.

An ecclesiastical council was held June 25, 1823, which resulted in the organization of the present Orthodox church, the covenant at that time being signed by sixteen persons. The pastors of the church have been Rev. Mr. Wolcott, ordained October, 1830, and dismissed in 1833; Rev. Caleb B. Tracy, installed June 25, 1834; Rev. Columbus Shumway, installed Oct. 4, 1837; Rev. Solomon Clark, installed April 13, 1841; Rev. A. B. Foster, installed May 12, 1853; Rev. Lucien H. Adams, installed Oct. 28, 1862, and who was dismissed Jan. 2, 1865, to become a missionary of the A. B. C. for Foreign Missions in Turkey. Pastors serving since that have been Rev. Charles Kendall, Rev. Mr. Root, Rev. Wm. Miller, Rev. Abijah Stowell, Rev. Benjamin Ober and Rev. Charles W. Fifield; since which time no one has been ordained. The church now numbers forty-seven members. Rev. Elbridge W. Merritt supplies at the present time.

A Baptist church was in existence in the south-westerly part of the town during the Revolutionary war; and its pastor, Rev. Samuel Dennis, was as ardent and zealous a patriot as the Rev. Mr. Whitney was royalist. Of the date of its organization we have no authentic record, but the society continued for several years after the Revolution, when the meeting-house was moved to Dana. In November, 1824, a branch of the Baptist church of Athol was formed in Petersham, and for several years regular Sabbath-day services were held.

The present Baptist church was organized in May, 1849, with twenty-nine members, and worshipped during a portion of the first year in the Methodist Chapel which they rented. They then purchased the meeting-house built by the Universalists, which is their present house of worship. The first pastor was Rev. John Shepardson, who served the church for twenty-three years. He was succeeded by Rev. T. M. Merriman, who labored for two or three years. Other preachers have been Rev. E. C. Anderson and Rev. T. P. Briggs. They have now no settled pastor.

A society of Universalists was formed in 1836 or 1837. They built a meeting-house, and had preaching until about the year 1849, since which time they have had none. The pastors settled over this church were Rev. Mr. Willis and Rev. Mr. Coolidge. A Methodist society was also organized here about the year 1843. They erected a small chapel and had preaching for five or six years. Their ministers were Rev. Mr. Dutton, Rev. Mr. Clarke and Rev. Mr. Goodwin.

The Shakers appeared in Petersham about the year 1783, and were joined by some of the men of wealth and influence in the town, and their meetings were attended by large numbers. They did not, however, establish a society in



the town. The opposition of the people to them at length arose to such a pitch, that an excited mob gathered about the place of their meeting, and violently attacked them, when it is said that Mother Ann Lee, the founder of Shakerism, who was present, heroically fought against her assailants.

The latest of the religious organizations of the town is that of the "Adonai Shomo" Corporation; the name signifying "the Lord is there." This is the outgrowth of the Advent movements from 1843 to 1860.

They were gathered together about the year 1860 into one family by Frederic T. Howland, who until his death in 1873, continued as their leader. Their home, with two hundred acres of land in the northerly part of the town, was purchased and first occupied in August, 1864. The corporation was organized under the laws of Massachusetts, and received a charter therefrom Jan. 1, 1876. L. C. Fuller was chosen its first president, which office he resigned in 1877 and was succeeded by Asa F. Richards, who now holds the office. The object of this peculiar sect may best be expressed in its articles of faith and union to be "in obedience to the direction of the spirit of the Lord, in order to illustrate the principles of our faith and perform our duty to God, the world and to each other, and to form a more perfect union in harmony with, and for protection by, the laws of the State under which we live, and to maintain said objects and purposes we consecrate our possessions, goods and labors, to the common uses and purposes of the Brotherhood of the Corporation." During the last few years the organization has been disturbed by litigation.

Petersham from her earliest days has provided most liberally for her schools, and the large number of her sons and daughters whom she has sent out to the colleges and seminaries of the land, and who have gone forth as teachers, or attained prominent positions in the various professions, are the results of this liberal policy. The report of the secretary of the Board of Education for 1874-5, shows that the town pays a larger per cent. of its valuation for school purposes than a majority of the towns of either the State or county. Among the earliest schoolmasters were Joel Matthews, Jedediah Parker, Dr. Eleazar Hartshorn, Nathan Stone, and Ensign Mann. Mann was liberally educated, being a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1764, and ardently espoused the cause of liberty, being the only person of education whom the patriots could claim. Mr. Mann came to Petersham about the year 1767 and commenced teaching, which he continued to follow all his life, and is known to this day as "Master Mann." In 1773 he married Miss Alice Whitney, daughter of the Tory preacher, and afterwards favored the Tory party, but took no active part in politics. His descendants still reside in Petersham and other sections of the State.

*Population.*—Colonial census, 1776, 1,235; United States census, 1790, 1,560; 1800, 1,794; 1810, 1,490; 1820, 1,623; 1830, 1,696; 1840, 1,775; 1850, 1,527; 1860, 1,465; 1870, 1,335; State census, 1875, 1,203. We find the following statistics in last State census: whole number of farms, 218;



total acreage in farms, 20,632 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; value of farms, lands and buildings, \$535,402; fruit trees and vines, \$15,194; domestic animals, \$91,084; agricultural implements in use, \$21,536; total value of farm property, \$663,216; number of horses, 216; milch cows, 718; oxen, 141; sheep, merino, 49; other sheep, 112; marl and muck bed acreage, 19; value, \$170; sand pits, \$50; products of manufactures, \$31,961; products of agriculture and mining, \$166,605; total valuation, \$666,270; total products, \$198,566; total number of acres of land taxed, 23,507; valuation of personal property, \$149,011: valuation of real estate, \$517,259; lumber, value, for sale and use, \$8,600, only Dana and Lunenburg in the county producing more than Petersham; butter, 44,355 lbs. for sale, value, \$14,146; 24,032 lbs. for use, value, \$8,239; total value, \$23,146; charcoal, 1,000 bushels, for sale, value, \$100; cheese, 20,129 lbs. for sale, value, \$2,884; 7,403 lbs. for use, value, \$1,047; total value, \$3,931; cider, gallons for sale, 10,259, value, \$907; gallons for use, 22,967, value, \$1,596; total value, \$2,503; firewood, cords for sale, 1,666, value, \$6,041; cords for use, 1,227, value, \$3,059; total value, \$9,100; apples, 8,996 bushels, value, \$4,229; beef, 55,275 lbs., value, \$5,025; eggs, 14,557 dozen, value, \$3,801; milk, gallons, 33,297, value, \$3,945; pork, 66,256 lbs., value, \$6,336; hay, English, 3,340 tons, value, \$51,999; meadow, 508 tons, value, \$4,881; clover, 10 tons, value, \$130; millet, 2 tons, value, \$27; total value, \$57,037. Number of polls, 345; naturalized voters, 21; total number of voters, 326; dwelling-houses, 289; number of families, 301. In 1879—houses, 276; horses, 273; cows, 724; sheep, 199; real estate, \$447,702; personal, \$113,144; total valuation, \$610,844.

*Representatives.*—John Chandler, 1768; Ephraim Doolittle, 1773–4; Jonathan Grout, 1775, 1779, 1784, 1786, 1787; Samuel Peckham, 1787; Park Holland, 1788–9; Ruggles Spooner, 1790; Daniel Bigelow, 1791–2. Records lost by fire from 1792 until 1817. Asa Pond, 1818; Joel Bryant, 1822; Hutchings Hapgood, 1823; Israel Houghton, 1824; Cyrus Wadsworth, 1827; Joseph Gallond, 1829–30 and 1832; Micajah Reed, 1829, 1832–33; Josiah Wheeler, 1830 and 1849; Aaron Brooks, 1834–5; Nahum Gale, 1836–37; Cephas Willard, 1835, 1838; Seth Hapgood, 1837, 1840, 1849; Joseph Brown, 1839; Artemas Bryant, 1839–40; Asa Clark, 1841; Jonas Howe, 1845; Elbridge G. Miller, 1846; Lyman Robinson, 1848; George White, 1851, 1853; Lewis Whitney, 1852; John G. Mudge, 1856, 1858, 1865; Josiah White, 1861; Hudson Tolman, 1862; Stephen D. Goddard, 1869, 1873; Lyman Clark, 1879.

Senator since 1855: John G. Mudge, 1867–8. Constitutional Convention 1853, Seth Hapgood.

*Town Clerks.*—Joshua Willard, 1754, '58–60, '63; David Sanderson, 1757, '61, '62, '64–67, '69–74, '76–80; John Chandler, 1768, '89–92; Jonathan Grout, 1775; Wm. Willard, 1781–4; Park Holland, 1785–6; Wm. McCarty, 1787; Samuel Peckham, 1788; records lost; Jared Weed, from

1817 to and including 1842; Seth Hapgood, 1843, John L. Gallond, 1844-6; Lyman E. Sibley, 1847; Chas. B. Mosely, 1848; Lewis Whitney, 1869 to and including 1874; John G. Mudge, 1875; Lewis E. Whitney, 1876-8; II. N. Tower, 1879.

The following native inhabitants of Petersham have graduated at Harvard University: — Peter Whitney, A. M., class of 1762; born Sept. 15, 1744; ordained minister at Northborough November, 1767; died at Northborough Feb. 29, 1816; entered college when thirteen years ten months old; was a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society; son of Rev. Aaron Whitney; March 11, 1763, married Julia Lambert of Reading. Paul Whitney, A. M., class of 1772; born March 23, 1753; lived in Westfield; died at Westfield, March 9, 1795; physician; son of Rev. Aaron Whitney; was fifteen years four months old when he entered college. Abel Whitney, A. M., class of 1773; born March 15, 1756; died at Westfield, 1807; received degree A. M. at Harvard, 1777, and also at Yale, 1781. William Amherst Barron, A. M., class of 1787; born June 10, 1769; was tutor at Harvard, and major United States army; died at New York, Dec. 2, 1825, in his fifty-eighth year; was son of Capt. William Barron of Petersham; received degree of A. M. 1792. John Chandler, A. M., class of 1787; born July 18, 1767; lived in Petersham; died at Worcester Insane Asylum, Sept. 21, 1846; received degree A. M. 1794. Richard Whitney, A. M., class of 1787; born Feb. 23, 1767; died 1806; physician; A. B. 1789; A. M. 1792. Samuel Willard, class of 1803; born April 18, 1776; A. M. 1810; S. T. D. 1826, and A. A. S.; lived and ordained at Deerfield, Sept. 23, 1807; died at Deerfield, Oct. 8, 1859; tutor at Bowdoin College; son of William and Catharine (Wilder) Willard; married Susan, daughter of Dr. Joshua Baker. Nathaniel Chandler, A. M., class of 1792; born Oct. 6, 1773; lived in Lancaster; died at Worcester Insane Asylum, June 4, 1852. Samuel Ward Chandler, class of 1822. Francis Augustus Brooks, class of 1842; born May 23, 1824; son of Aaron, Jr. and Abby (Morgan) Brooks; Sept. 14, 1847, married Frances, daughter of Caleb Butler, Esq.; began the practice of law in his native town in 1845; removed to Boston in 1848, where he has gained distinction in his profession. John Brooks, class of 1856; born April 29, 1836; son of Aaron, Jr. and Martha Amelia (Willson) Brooks.

The following native inhabitants have graduated from Dartmouth College: — Jonathan Grout, A. M., class of 1787; born Jan. 23, 1761; son of Hon. Jonathan and Sarah (Page) Grout; died in Philadelphia, Pa., March 12, 1820; lawyer; practiced law at Belchertown; afterwards first contractor of telegraphs by signals in this country, and established a line of telegraphs from Boston to Nantucket; afterwards removed to Philadelphia, Pa., and opened a grammar-school. Paul Grout, class of 1793, and George Grout, the most celebrated athlete of his day, class of 1795, were his brothers. Rev. John Jackson, class of 1792; born July 16, 1771; died at Broome, Canada East, March 18, 1844, aged seventy-two; studied divinity with Rev. Joel Foster, at New Salem,



and Rev. Judah Nash of Montague; ordained pastor of Congregational church at Gill, Jan. 10, 1798; dismissed from Gill Oct. 10, 1801; then went to Canada; missionary at Stukely, Canada East, 1801 to 1815; then removed to Broome, Canada East, where he was a magistrate from 1830 until his death; married Rebecca, daughter of Josiah Rogers of Petersham, 1798. William Ward, A. M., class of 1792; born June 8, 1767; son of Elisha and Mary (Baldwin) Ward; died at Shutesbury Dec. 10, 1827; lawyer; practiced law at Shutesbury all his life; married Susannah Sanderson, of Petersham, 1796. Hutchins Hapgood, class of 1803; born Sept. 2, 1792; son of Hutchins and Elizabeth (Grout) Hapgood; died at Petersham, June 2, 1828, aged thirty-five; he read law with Maj. John Taylor, of Northampton, from Nov. 6, 1814, to July, 1815, finishing the course at Cavendish, Vt., but did not practice; became a merchant in New York city; never married. Rev. Cyrus Pitt Grosvenor, class of 1818, son of Rev. Daniel and Deborah (Hall) Grosvenor; studied divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey; was pastor of Baptist churches in New Haven, Ct., Boston, Salem and Sterling; became resident of McGrawville, N. Y. Moses Gill Grosvenor, class of 1822, is his brother.

The above is obtained from "Sibley's MSS.", late librarian of Harvard University, and from "Sketches of the Alumni of Dartmouth College, by Rev. George T. Chapman, D. D."

We find among the graduates of Williams College, Daniel Bigelow, Jr., class of 1803; physician; settled in Columbus, Ohio, and died there in 1826. Lewis Bigelow, brother of Daniel, graduated in the same class; born in 1785; he studied law, and succeeded his father in the practice of his profession; he rose to so much distinction that he was chosen a member of the Seventeenth Congress; he afterwards settled in Peoria, Ill., and died there in 1838, aged fifty-three years. Charles Goddard, class of 1815; son of Dea. Joel Goddard; was born Sept. 7, 1790; taught school in Virginia; became editor of the "Family Visitor," a religious paper; he died at the age of forty-eight years, being at the time professor-elect of mathematics in Marietta College, Ohio. Joel S. Sanderson, class of 1850; born Nov. 14, 1825; married, June 20, 1850, Dolly Sophia Osgood of Bernardston; became a large farmer and stock-raiser at Greenfield; he has lately died.

Among the graduates of Amherst College are the names of John B. Kendall, class of 1827; Charles Grosvenor Goddard, class of 1841; Andrew Jackson Wheeler, class of 1846; George Sumner Grosvenor, class of 1858; Abiathar Blanchard, class of 1875, and Alfred Oren Tower, class of 1878. James Willson Brooks, brother of Francis A. and John Brooks, graduated at Brown University, class of 1855, Attorney and President of the McKay Heeling Association, Boston. Appointed Vice-Consul at Paris by President Lincoln. Now owns the "Old Homestead" in Petersham. Also Charles Hutchings Hapgood, class of 1857.

It was in Petersham that what is known commonly as the Shays Rebellion



collapsed, on the 4th day of February, 1787. The rout of the troops under Shays was complete, and no farther armed opposition was made to the authority of the Commonwealth. The spotted fever raged in Petersham in 1810, and Dr. John Flint, at the early age of thirty-one years, sacrificed his own life in his endeavors to save others. Of the great fire of the 15th of April, 1847, Willson says :— "Following as it did, upon the heels of other reverses and misfortunes, from which the place was suffering, it seemed to prostrate and paralyze the business of the beautiful village, throughout which were to be seen previously the marks of enterprise and thrift on every side."

A worthy son of Petersham is the Hon. William B. Spooner of Boston, whose grandfather, Capt. Wing Spooner, was a captain of minute-men and a Revolutionary officer. Mr. Spooner is one of the most distinguished sons of Petersham, and his reputation as a business man, a philanthropist, and a friend of all true reforms is not confined alone to this State, but is national. Going to Boston a poor boy, he has, by his enterprise, become one of the most extensive leather dealers in the country. During the great fire of 1873 his place of business, with large blocks owned by him, were destroyed, to the amount of several hundred thousand dollars, but before the devouring flames had finished their work he had engaged a new store and made arrangements for the erection of new buildings. He has been President of the New England Shoe and Leather Association, and was one of the two United States Centennial Commissioners from Massachusetts.

A man whom the people of Petersham have respected and honored for three-fourths of a century was Deacon Cephas Willard, who died in August of the present year, in his ninety-third year. Possessed of an uncommonly retentive memory, he has for years been an encyclopedia of the events transpiring in his native town. He has held the offices of assessor, deputy-sheriff, coroner and member of the House of Representatives; has been deacon of the first parish in Petersham for fifty-six years, being one of three of the same family who held the office of deacon for more than a hundred years, and was treasurer for more than thirty years in succession, and more than forty in all, his final account being settled not more than three months before his death. He visited the Centennial at Philadelphia, alone, when in his ninetieth year, and presided at the Fourth of July Centennial Celebration in his native town, his lifetime having covered nine-tenths of the nation's history. In his life were all the elements of a true New England character, and his well-spent life cannot fail to leave an indelible impression for good upon the people among whom he lived.

There are no names to the cemeteries in Petersham, but they are ten in number, and were probably established in the following order: No. 1, centre; No. 2, extreme south-west; No. 3, east; No. 4, west; No. 5, extreme north-west; No. 6, near the "Lincoln Place," so called; No. 7, extreme east; No. 8, north; No. 9, south-west, near "Chamberlin Place," so called; No. 10, half-mile east of centre. Petersham held a prominent position among her sister

towns during the last part of the last century, and efforts were made to form a new county, with Petersham for the shire town. Petersham still holds, relatively, a prominent position among towns similarly located. This town bounded on the north-west by Athol and New Salem, on the north-east by Phillipston, on the south-east by Barre, and on the south-west by Dana. It is about sixty-two miles due west of Boston.

Dr. Hitchcock speaks of the beauty of Petersham among the towns east of Connecticut River, which have been built upon heights commanding wide horizons. And already the numerous summer visitors to the place attest the fact that this beauty and attractive scenery are being appreciated. He said: "Then let them visit Wachusett and other romantic spots of Worcester County. In short, could our citizens but realize the riches of our scenery, I am sure so many of them would not resort so often to distant spots beyond our limits, to experience often less gratification than they might find among our own mountains and vales." In speaking of autumnal scenery he writes: "Perhaps no country in the world exhibits in its autumnal scenery so rich a variety of colors in the foliage of trees as our own." The trees whose leaves give the liveliest tints are the maple, the oak, the walnut and the sumach, while the pine and hemlock retain their deep green.

In 1878 the citizens formed the "Petersham Village Improvement Society." The secretary, F. J. Holman, in his first report, mentions, among other advantages already derived, that "The best result of the year's work, however, is the guarantee of one thousand dollars for the establishment of a Free Public Library, this sum being made up of five hundred dollars generously offered by Francis A. Brooks, Esq., of Boston, seconded by an appropriation by the town of three hundred and fifty dollars, the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars being raised by subscription." The treasurer is Capt. John G. Mudge, whose heart and hand are now, as they ever have been, first and foremost in every work that tends to the prosperity of his beloved Petersham and the welfare of its inhabitants. There are also the Baptist Sunday-school Library, Congregational Sunday-school Library, and the Unitarian Sunday-School Library.

*Town Officers, 1879.*—Selectmen: J. W. Upton, S. C. Goddard, Elisha Webb. Assessors: Josiah White, Fred. Bryant, Thomas Aldrich. School Committee: Elisha Webb, Rev. Lyman Clark, Mrs. George Ayers. Treasurer, John G. Mudge. Town Clerk, H. N. Tower.

The author has availed himself of many facts contained in the admirable address of Rev. Edmund B. Willson: also, is under obligations to Rev. Lyman Clark, for information contained in his able Centennial address. Hon. John G. Mudge has taken a deep interest in the preparation of this history; and last, but not least, the author wishes to cordially thank J. B. Howe, who is descended from the patriotic Revolutionary stock of Petersham, both on the paternal and maternal side. Mr. Howe has furnished many facts and rendered much assistance.

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PHILLIPSTON.

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BY GEORGE W. HORR, LL. B.

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## CHAPTER I.

SITUATION — CIVIL ORIGIN — EARLY PROCEEDINGS — ACTION IN THE REVOLUTION — MINUTE-MEN — MILITARY ORDERS — CHURCH MATTERS — PASTORS IN SUCCESSION — A SEVERE STRUGGLE — MORE RECENT DENOMINATIONS.

PHILLIPSTON, situated in the north-western part of the county, about sixty-five miles from Boston, and about thirty miles from Worcester, was originally formed from portions of Templeton and Athol. The act erecting the territory into a precinct reads as follows : —

“In Council Feb. 15th 1774 it was read and ordered that the tract of Land hereafter described lying partly in Templeton and partly in Athol together with the inhabitants thereon dwelling be and hereby are erected into a Precinct, and the said Inhabitants are hereby intrusted with all the Powers and Privileges by Law belonging to inhabitants of other Precincts in this Province. Viz.—Beginning at Hubbardston Line, where Burnshirt stream runs out of Templeton, thence running up said stream to a Maple tree being the Southerly Corner of the Second Division Lott No. 47, thence running North 30° West to New Brook, so called, thence down the brook to Royalston Line, thence west to Athol Line being the north-west corner of Templeton, then on Athol Line to Miller’s River; thence down said River to a Brook called Thousand Acre Meadow Brook, thence South-westerly to the westwardly Corner of the Hundred Acre Lot, Lot No. 22, thence strait to the most Westerly Corner of Templeton, thence by Templeton line to where it began.”

The first precinct meeting was held March 22, 1774, at the house of Charles Baker, innholder, when the following officers were chosen: Clerk, Charles Baker; precinct committee, Charles Baker, Ephraim Stockwell, Joseph White, Henry Sawtell, Samuel Taylor; precinct assessors, Charles Baker, John Wheeler, Simon Goddard; treasurer, Jonathan Jones. Although starting out alone, and becoming, to a certain extent, independent of the mother towns at the very time when the opening scenes of the Revolution would necessarily inspire a feeling of uncertainty regarding the future of their little community,



yet we find them contributing liberally for the support of religion and education, and sending out of their midst a goodly number to battle in the armies of the Revolution. The long years of the war, and the hard times produced thereby, occasioned great struggles for the building up of the place, and it required the most vigorous exertions of those that were public-spirited and zealous in the cause. We find recorded the names of the following men that went on the first alarm in 1775 : —

“ Thomas Johnson, Joseph Fairbank, Jonathan Willington, Isaac Ball, Samuel Lamb, John Brigham, John Wheeler, Berzeliel Maynard, Enoch Sawtell, Moses Gray, Simon Goddard, Jotham Bigelow, Sam. Miner, Jonathan Train, Reuben Cummings, John Shattuck.”

Among the names of others recorded as serving in the Revolution from this precinct were : —

“ Benjamin Jones, Ezra Hudson, Joseph Cummings, Joshua Whitcomb, Jonas Baker, Gardner Maynard, Noah Bates, Richard Sawtell, James Wheeler, Joseph White, Abel Grout, Thomas Drury, Jonathan Bowker, Jonathan Gates, Maltiah Eaton, Abner Sawyer, Thomas White, Stephen Smith, Asa Bowker, Charles Baker, Jr., Silas Baker, Samuel Gray, Jonathan Jones, Jonas Gibbs, Joseph Mixer, Moses Taylor, Henry Sawtell, Joseph Newton, Daniel Knight, Ithamar Bowker, Ephraim Shattuck, John Shattuck, Levi Baker, David Train, Samuel Taylor, Jr., Charles Whitney, Ebenezer Dunton, Samuel Phillips, Joseph Cummings, Jr., Thaddeus Brown, Capt. Stockwell, John Colman, Silas Conant, Joseph Newton, Jr., Joshua Lamb, Abner Ward, Daniel Shattuck, Paul Church, Benjamin White, Jr., Joel Grout, Benjamin Jones, Moses Miner, David Holman, Jesse Stockwell, Gardner Maynard and others.”

At a precinct meeting held June 17th, 1777, it was voted to raise the sum of £470 for the paying of our Continental men, and to choose a committee to procure money and hire the remaining part of the quota of said men, and make return to this precinct.

The inhabitants of the precinct desired greater privileges and rights than those possessed by their existing organization, and a movement was made to have the territory set off as a town, which object was accomplished, and the territory was incorporated as a town Oct. 20, 1786, and was given the name of Gerry, out of respect to the Hon. Elbridge Gerry, a representative of this Commonwealth in the Congress of the United States, who, it is stated, offered to glaze the meeting-house. The first town meeting held was Jan. 16, 1787, when the following town officers were chosen : Town clerk, Charles Baker ; selectmen, Charles Baker, Joel Grout, Simon Goddard ; wardens, John Wheeler, Joseph White ; tithing-men, Jotham Bigelow, Ezra Hudson.

Among the families prominent in the early history of the town was the Jones family. Mr. James Jones of Weston was one of the original proprietors of Narraganset No. 6, which included the greater part of the present town of Phillipston. Jonathan Jones came to Gerry in 1770, from Weston, and con-

tinued to reside in the place until his death, in 1803. His son, Nahum Jones, writes in his diary concerning his father and the town, as follows:—

“When my father came to this place, what is now Gerry was quite in a state of nature. The society was yet to be incorporated; a meeting-house to be built and a minister to be settled; school-houses to be erected, and roads to be made. The settlement was in its infancy, and most of the inhabitants were living too remote from any meeting-house to attend public worship with convenience. A considerable number of the inhabitants were greatly disaffected and were much opposed to the building of the meeting-house, to the incorporation of the town, and to settling a minister, but after the first minister was settled the town became well united. My father was frequently in town business, having served as town clerk, selectman, assessor, &c., and often employed on committees. And during the insurrection in Massachusetts, in 1786 and 1787, he was particularly active and assiduous in using means for the suppression of the insurrection, and the restoration of good order.”

Nahum Jones, son of Jonathan, was born Aug. 13, 1772, and became noted as a schoolmaster. His education was received at the common schools of the town, Appleton Academy, New Ipswich, N. H., the academy at Leicester, Mass., and the academy connected with Williams College. He taught for several years in Whitestown and Paris, N. Y., making the journey there and back several times on foot, with his baggage, a distance of 211 miles. He also taught at Provincetown on Cape Cod, making frequent journeys to Gerry and back on foot, walking forty miles a day. He instructed, in all, between ten and eleven years. The total number of scholars under his instruction was 1,456. He served as selectman and town clerk for the town of Gerry, and was much interested in instituting a social library for the town, of which he was chosen one of the trustees. He died Oct. 22, 1807, at the early age of thirty-five years. Ithamar Ward, son of Maj. Gen. Artemas Ward of Revolutionary fame, moved to Gerry in 1778, where he continued to reside until his death, in 1828. He was a magistrate, and held offices of trust and honor in the town, and represented the town in the General Court eight years. His sons, Artemas and Trowbridge, now reside at the old homestead on Prospect Hill. They have in their possession a valuable historical relic, it being a letter written by George Washington to their grandfather. The letter reads as follows:—

“*To Major General Ward at Roxborough:*

“CAMBRIDGE 29th Mar. '76.

“SIR,—As General Green is ordered to March with the next Brigade (on Monday) and as General Spencer will follow the last (leaving four or five Regiments in this department for Defense, Protection of the Stores, Erection of Works, ect.) I should be glad, if you are not afraid of the Small Pox, & Incline to continue longer in the Service than you lately talked of, if you would remove in to Boston to-morrow or next day, & take upon you the Command and direction of Matters there.

“I am Sir

Y<sup>r</sup> Most Obed Ser

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.”

They also have an English dictionary, formerly owned by Gen. Ward, printed in London in 1745, and a "Book of Sermons," published in Boston in 1726, containing a sermon preached to the artillery company in Boston on the day of their election of officers, Jan. 2, 1701.

At a meeting held March 11, 1777, it was voted that the sum of ten pounds be raised in the precinct to be laid out in preaching, and chose Charles Baker, Abner Sawyer and Thomas White a committee for that purpose; also voted that said preaching be one half at Capt. Baker's and the other half at Mr. Berzeliel Maynard's.

At a meeting held May 27, 1778, a committee was chosen "to look out a convenient spot for to set a meeting-house on."

At an adjourned meeting, held Jan. 18, 1779, it was voted to accept Mr. Enoch Sawtell's generous offer of giving 100 rods of land to the precinct, for the purpose of placing a meeting-house upon, where his mill stands; secondly the precinct voted that they would build a meeting-house 50 feet long and 40 feet wide; also voted to raise the sum of six hundred pounds for carrying on said house.

March 8, 1779, it was voted to raise one hundred pounds to be laid out in preaching, and June 29 of the same year two hundred pounds was added for preaching.

A Congregational church was gathered on the 16th of November, 1785, the churches of Templeton, Barre and Royalston assisting in the first ecclesiastical council. Rev. Ebenezer Tucker, a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1783, was ordained as the first minister of the church, Nov. 5, 1788, and continued as pastor until February, 1799, when he was dismissed. He was succeeded by Rev. Ezekiel L. Bascom, who continued until 1820. The ministers of the church since that time have been: Rev. Joseph Chickering, a graduate of Harvard in the class of 1799, who was settled in 1822, and dismissed in 1835; Alexander Lovell, installed in 1835, dismissed in 1844; Rev. A. E. P. Perkins, settled in September, 1844, and dismissed in May, 1855; Rev. Samuel W. Barnum, served from January, 1856, to May, 1862; Rev. Lyman White, 1863 to 1871; Rev. Charles H. Morse, May, 1871, to May, 1872; Rev. Stephen Harris, who was settled October, 1873, and was killed by the cars at Athol, June 27, 1874; Rev. C. L. Cushman, September, 1874, to April, 1878. There is no settled pastor now, but Rev. F. V. Tenny officiates as minister of the church. The meeting-house was remodeled from the old original one in 1838, and the society was presented with a bell by Mr. Loammi Baldwin, a native of the town, living in Savannah, Ga.

During the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Chickering, about the years 1829 and 1830, occurred the memorable church controversy, well remembered by many of the older people of the town. Some of the members of the parish had become dissatisfied with the preaching of Rev. Mr. Chickering, and signed off from the parish. About this time Methodist preaching commenced, and the dissatis-



fied ones organized a society. The trouble appears to have been caused principally by a fund in possession of the parish. Those that formed the new society believed that they were entitled to the benefit to be derived from this fund, and also claimed the name of the First Parish; thus there were two societies claiming this title, and the right to the meeting-house and fund. Mr. C. C. Bassett, the clerk of the parish, for refusing the votes of those who had once withdrawn from the society, in a parish meeting, had nearly a dozen actions brought against him in the courts.

At length the crisis came, when one Saturday night the Methodists took possession of the meeting-house, and, early on Sunday morning, placed their minister, Paul Townsend, in the pulpit. As the Orthodox people assembled, and the time drew near for the commencement of the services, intense excitement prevailed, when Oliver Powers, Esq., stepped up to the pulpit and requested Mr. Townsend to leave the desk. His reply was, that he had been placed there by the committee of the First Parish in Phillipston to preach, and he should not vacate the desk. So excited had the people become, that a conflict seemed imminent, there being several pews filled with Methodists armed with clubs, determined to resist to the utmost any attempt to remove their minister from the pulpit.

Finding that nothing could be accomplished without force, Rev. Mr. Chickering and his people withdrew to the hall of 'Squire Gould, which they continued to occupy until the trouble was settled.

Action was brought against the Methodists for trespass, and entered in court; but this, and also the actions against parish clerk Bassett were settled before they came to trial, by compromise.

The Methodists gave a bond, signed by each member who had been dissatisfied, that they would never trouble the society again, and the Orthodox relinquished the fund, which was given to the town for the poor.

The Methodists first had preaching in town about the year 1830. The first preacher of this denomination was Enoch Bradley, who preached in one of the school-houses, and also held a camp-meeting in a grove near Goulding Village. A society was formed, and what is now called Pike's Hall was hired, some of the leading men of the town being connected with the society, and having for their preacher Paul Townsend. A meeting-house was built on the Athol and Templeton road in 1849, which was dedicated in the spring of 1850, from which time to 1866 there was regular preaching.

The first minister sent by Conference, was Rev. G. Brown; other ministers stationed here have been: Rev. Burtis Judd, Rev. W. A. Clapp, Rev. John Rickett, Rev. J. S. W. Weeks, Rev. J. Wilson, Rev. E. D. Winslow, Rev. W. Phillips, Rev. N. H. Martin, Rev. J. Brackett, Rev. N. F. Stevens.

From 1866 to 1870, there was preaching only a part of the time; the church was then closed until 1877, when the society was reorganized by Presiding

Elder Haskell. They now have twenty members and a Sunday school, their preacher being Rev. W. H. Marble, who supplies both this and the East Templeton church.

In 1833 a society was organized called the "Independent Religious Universalist Society;" a meeting-house was soon built and preaching was continued for several years. Among those who preached for the society were: Rev. John V. Wilson, Rev. Aurin Bugbee, Rev. G. Bushnell and others. The meeting-house has been taken down and removed to East Templeton, where it is now used by the Methodist Society of that place.

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## CHAPTER II.

SECOND WAR WITH ENGLAND — NAME OF GERRY REPUDIATED — NEW NAME FOR THE TOWN — EDUCATION — COLLEGIATE HONORS — PUBLIC LIBRARY — BEQUESTS TO THE TOWN — SPIRIT IN THE REBELLION — MILITARY HISTORY — AGRICULTURE — LOCAL BUSINESS — NATURAL FEATURES AND SCENERY — CIVIL RECORD — BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

THE war of 1812 was strongly opposed by the people of Phillipston. Town meetings were held, at which resolutions denouncing in the most emphatic language the administration, and protesting against the war, were passed. The Hon. Elbridge Gerry, from whom the town was named, incurred their displeasure because of his political action, and at a town meeting held Jan. 18th, 1814, the following petition was adopted:—

*"The Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court Assembled:—*

*"The inhabitants of the town of Gerry humbly represent, that while they participate in common with their fellow citizens the sufferings and disgrace which the mad policy of their national government has brought upon their unhappy country, and from which they fear the wisdom and patriotism of the State Legislature will be able to afford but a partial relief, they would lay before your Hon. body a grievance of a more local nature, and one which they rejoice, is entirely within your control. As the moral and political principle of a body politic are supposed to be assimilated to those of the individual whose name they assume, and are estimated by the public according to that standard, your petitioners have long felt no small uneasiness and chagrin that they should support the name of a man who from the beginning was opposed to the National Constitution, and to the politics of Washington; and who is reputedly hostile to the ministers and ordinances of religion: and they would respectfully represent to your Honors, that as they were never admirers of the moral or political character of the Gentleman whose name they bear, so neither was Gerry the name originally prayed for in the petition to become a town corporate; and that they are under no obligation to that Gentleman for any favor or benefit conferred; that the arbitrary and unjust policy,*

which has since characterized his administration, while chief magistrate of this Commonwealth, has rendered the name itself a term of odium and reproach, and that by longer retaining it your petitioners would be liable to the imputation of respect to a character, and adherence to the measures upon which the good people of this State have bestowed the most unequivocal disapprobation. Your petitioners, therefore, pray that the act by which they were incorporated a town by the name of Gerry, may be so far repealed as that they may be exonerated from the name and known in future as a town corporate by the name of Phillipston. And as in duty bound will ever pray. In legal Town Meeting assembled, this eighteenth day of January, 1814.

“IGNATIUS GOULDING, JR., *Moderator*,  
NAHUM WARD, *Clerk*.”

As a result of this petition the name of the town was changed to Phillipston, Feb. 5, 1814, in honor of Lieut. Gov. William Phillips. At the conclusion of peace between the United States and Great Britain, the event was celebrated at Goulding Village by the firing of guns, and the illumination of the residence of Col. Goulding.

In the cause of education Phillipston has always taken a special interest, and her schools have ranked high among those of the State, while few towns of the size have sent so many of their sons and daughters to the colleges and seminaries of the land. In 1790 it was voted to build three school-houses, and the sum of forty pounds was appropriated for schooling. In 1840, \$400 was raised for schools, in 1841, \$550, in 1848, \$600, and in 1875, \$1,000, when there were six schools attended by 162 scholars. Among the college graduates from Phillipston are John Milton Cheney, class of 1821, Harvard College; Oliver P. Powers, class of 1830, Amherst College; Jeremiah Lemuel Newton, class of 1850, Amherst College; Edward Payson Baker, class of 1853, Amherst College; Fred Sanderson, class of 1861, Amherst College; Julius Sanderson, class of 1869, Amherst College; W. H. Bowker, class of 1871, Massachusetts Agricultural College. Artemas Zina Brown graduated from the Medical Department of Dartmouth College, in 1834; while many of the young ladies have graduated at Mount Holyoke Seminary and other female seminaries.

An institution in which the citizens of the town take commendable pride is the Phillips Public Library, and well they may, for no other town in the State of the size of Phillipston has as fine a public library as this; and we may safely say that there are few communities that avail themselves of the privileges so extensively as do the people of Phillipston, for with a population of only 666 the yearly circulation of the library is 7,412, averaging eleven volumes to each man, woman and child. The library was founded in 1860, and contains 3,404 volumes. It was the gift of Jonathan Phillips of Boston, a nephew of Lieut. Gov. Phillips, from whom the town received its name. The clause of the will in the bequest of Jonathan Phillips reads as follows:—

“The 12th annual report of the Board of Education shows that the Town of Phillips-ton, in the County of Worcester, takes special interest in the cause of Education and



has taken a prominent, if not the first, rank among the towns of Massachusetts in the care and support of Public Schools — I therefore give *five thousand dollars* to said town as a trust fund, the income and produce of which shall annually be expended in procuring books for a Town Library, and I constitute the Selectmen of said town for the time being trustees of said fund, and charge them with the duty of seeing to the true and beneficial application of said income, and the due security of the capital sum, which shall not be directly or indirectly loaned to any inhabitant or resident of said town."

At a town meeting held Nov. 6, 1860, it was voted that the thanks of the town of Phillipston are gratefully tendered to the executors of the will of Mr. Jonathan Phillips and his heirs, for the liberal gift of \$5,000 made to the town by said Phillips, and that we and our posterity will ever hold in grateful remembrance, this generous benefactor of our town.

Another gift to the town is the legacy of Silas Stow, which was left to the town in 1864. The bequest reads as follows:—

"I give to the Town of Phillipston 20 shares of the Eliot Bank, Boston, and 20 shares in the Rollstone Bank, Fitchburg, the shares to be kept forever. The dividends, after adding one per cent. of the same each and every year for the term of 100 years to said fund, the remainder or residue shall be applied to such public purpose as the town may direct at their annual town meeting. Provided, however, that at no time shall said appropriation made from the interest accruing from said fund by said town, be in any manner whatever governed by non-real-estate owners. My intention is that the income of said bank stock, after adding one per cent. of said income to the principal of said fund for the term of one hundred years, shall be used so as to diminish, as far as possible, the sum to be raised by taxation upon real-estate owners or holders residing in said town."

The first town meeting after the breaking out of the Rebellion, at which any action of the town was taken was May 2, 1861, when the following preamble and resolves were adopted:—

"Whereas, The events of the past few days have disclosed to the astonished view of the people of this nation the fearful character of the crisis that is upon us. Our very existence as a Nation seems in peril. Therefore, In view of this extraordinary exigency, rendering life, liberty and property unsafe, the inhabitants of Phillipston, in legal town meeting assembled, do adopt and make the following provisions to meet the crisis:—

*Resolved*, 1st. That although our town is small in territory and population, and it cannot be expected that we should raise a full volunteer military company at the present time, we will yet make every effort to raise volunteers, to be joined to a company or companies in Templeton or other neighboring towns, such volunteers to be equipped under the State authority, and tendered to the Government on call.

"*Resolved*, 2d. That the town will furnish to each volunteer being a citizen of Phillipston a suitable uniform, not exceeding in cost \$25 each, to be procured under the direction of a committee chosen for that purpose, the sum to be paid from the town treasury, and to be considered the property of the town for the use of said volunteers or their successors in case of vacancies."

It was also voted "that the town will pay to each volunteer being a citizen of Phillipston, while in actual service, in addition to the wages to which they are entitled or may receive from Government per month, a sum sufficient to make the wages *one dollar* for each and every day of actual service, and also pay to each of said volunteers fifty cts. for every half day that they may drill under the authorities legally constituted for that purpose, preparing for actual service, limited, however, in time, to an extent reasonably necessary," &c. Voted to appropriate \$2,000 to carry out the foregoing. At a town meeting, July 23, 1862, it was voted to pay the sum of \$100 to each volunteer, to the number of eight, and that the treasurer be authorized to borrow the money. July 2, 1864, it was voted that the selectmen be instructed to draw \$125 from the treasury for every man, to make up our quota, that may be furnished by volunteering for any future call by the President within the year. Phillipston furnished during the war of the Rebellion sixty-eight men, who were true and noble soldiers, ever ready to respond to duty, and who bravely followed their country's flag through many a hard-fought battle, the larger number serving in the 21st, 27th, and 36th Regiments of three years' men, and the 53d of nine months' men. Frederick M. Sanderson, a student pursuing his studies at Amherst College, left the classic grounds of Amherst and enlisted as a private in the 21st Regiment; he was promoted to orderly sergeant, then second lieutenant, and afterwards to first lieutenant and captain. He was wounded at the battle of Roanoke Island. Some who would have been exempt from service, fired with patriotic ardor, enlisted, among whom was William J. Lamb, who, when fifty years old, enlisted and did noble service for his country. Russell Carruth was promoted from private to second lieutenant, and Pliny Fuller to sergeant. A monument has been erected by the town, which contains the following inscriptions:

"IN MEMORY OF OUR COMRADES WHO SLEEP IN SOUTHERN SOIL."

The names inscribed are: V. Piper, 21st Mass. Regiment, Co. A; Thomas H. Carruth, 14th N. H. Regiment, Co. A; J. H. Lamb, 53d Mass. Regiment, Co. H; C. M. Buxton, 36th Mass. Regiment, Co. H; J. M. Newton, 30th Mass. Regiment, Co. E; J. Rich, 36th Mass. Regiment, Co. H; G. A. Martin, 27th Mass. Regiment, Co. B; D. Hare, 36th Mass. Regiment, Co. D; A. P. Searles, 30th Mass. Regiment, Co. D.

In the palmy days of militia trainings Phillipston had one of the largest and best military companies in this part of the State. An amusing incident which occurred during these times has been related to us. It seems that the captain and second lieutenant were about moving out of town, and resigned their commissions. In the natural order of promotion the office of captain would be given to the first lieutenant, but a brother of his, not wishing him to become captain, offered to treat the company to gingerbread if, when the election took place, they would jump him. Upon the election Orderly-



sergeant C. C. Bassett was chosen captain. Soon after came the day for the fall training, when the lieutenant, who was in command of the company, angered at the slight put upon him, marched the company over the hills of the town from sunrise to sunset, without allowing them any lunch. Immediately on the dismissal of the company attention was called to the promise made, and the gingerbread was brought out and distributed, each soldier receiving a sheet or more as he wished, when at a given signal, the soldiers, thinking their commander must be tired and hungry, urged him to accept of their gingerbread in such a manner that he could not refuse, and for several minutes showers of gingerbread fell thick upon the unfortunate lieutenant.

Phillipston is pre-eminently an agricultural town. Situated on the highlands in the north-western part of the county, it abounds in excellent grazing land, upon which feed fine herds of cattle. The farmers, not satisfied with continually following the old methods of farming, are ever ready to introduce the improvements which the scientific agriculture of the present day is continually developing for their use. They have introduced upon their farms herds of thoroughbred stock, their farm-buildings present a neat and attractive appearance, labor-saving machinery and new and improved varieties of plants and seeds are used, while the strong, rich soil brings forth good crops of all kinds of produce, which find ready market in the manufacturing villages of surrounding towns. They contribute largely to the annual exhibitions of the Worcester North-west Agricultural and Mechanical Society, and carry away many of the prizes offered by that society. Among those largely and successfully engaged in farming are: Henry S. Miner, Dea. Courtlon Sanderson & Son, P. Myron, James W. Hager, J. Miller, Oliver Wellington, M. D. Fuller, Philastus Powers, Josephus Clifford & Son (Alfred D.), Daniel G. Carruth & Son (James A.), George Whitney, and Nelson Stone, with many others. The census of 1875 returns 126 farms, valued at \$240,075, and the agricultural productions amounted to \$90,246. The domestic animals were valued at \$46,003, and the butter produced amounted to 32,036 pounds, valued at \$11,591. There were 1,830 tons of hay produced. At one time manufacturing was carried on to some extent, there being in 1837 one cotton-mill turning out 165,000 yards of cotton goods annually, a woolen-mill which produced 11,500 yards of cloth; and 65,500 palm-leaf hats were made. The only manufacturing of any note at present are the chair factories of J. D. Parker and Francis Whitney, located at Goulding Village.

For several years Phillipston was a more active business place than many of the surrounding towns. The mercantile firm of Isaac Bassett & Son, afterwards carried on by C. C. Bassett & Co., Lee, Boynton & Co., and Lee & Bassett, did more business than any other firm in this part of the State, people coming from Athol, Orange, Warwick, Petersham, Dana, Northfield, Royalston, Winchendon and the towns of southern New Hampshire, to trade at their store. The firm were also the second in the State to put out palm-leaf to braid,



and were largely engaged in that business, their sales in this branch of their business alone amounting to \$125,000 in one year.

Phillipston is bounded on the north by Royalston, on the east by Templeton, south-west by Petersham, and on the west by Athol. Prospect Hill, situated about two miles west of the Centre, is a large and fertile hill. From an eminence on this hill an extensive view of the surrounding country on every side is obtained, — more than sixteen villages, with nearly thirty church spires, are in view, while the scenery of hill and mountain is magnificent.

“ Ah! that such beauty, varying in the light  
Of living nature, cannot be portrayed  
By words, nor by the pencil's silent skill,  
But is the property of him alone  
Who hath beheld it, noted it with care,  
And in his mind recorded it with love.”

The town is exceedingly well watered by perennial streams and rivulets. Among these are Burnshirt River, which for some distance forms the boundary line between this town and Templeton. Beaver Brook and Mill Brook drain the northerly part of the town, the former for several miles forming the boundary between Phillipston and Templeton, and emptying its waters into Miller's River in Royalston. Wine Brook rises in the south-west part of the town, and flows north-easterly through a beautiful valley. It derives its name from the color of its waters. Other streams are Moccasin Brook and a branch of Swift River.

Phillipston has been represented at the State House by the following representatives: — Ithamar Ward, 1805, '6, '8, '9, '10, '12, '14, '15; Elijah Gould, 1811, '13; Dea. Joseph Knowlton, 1816, '17, '18, '19, '27, '29; John Doane, 1821; Abel White, 1831, '32, '33; Jason Goulding, 1834, '41, '43, '44, '48, '66; Capt. Lot Doane, 1835; James Richardson, 1836, '37, '38, '40; Capt. James Carruth, 1839; Peter Sanderson, 1842, '46; Charles C. Bassett, 1851, '52; William Miller, 1853, '54; Russell Carruth, 1859; Edward Powers, 1863; James G. Smith, 1871; Henry S. Miner, 1875, '76.

Jason Goulding served as State Senator in 1846 and 1847, and was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1853.

The following have served as Town Clerks: — Charles Baker, 1787, '88, '89; Jonathan Jones, 1790, '91, '92; Jason Ayres, 1793; Elijah Gould, 1794, '95; John Barnard, 1796, '97; Joseph Knowlton, 1798, 1802 to 1810; Elisha Cook, 1799, 1800; Nahum Jones, 1801; Nahum Ward, 1810 to 1816, '22, '23; John Doane, 1816; Oliver Powers, 1817, '18, '19, '20; Josiah Stockwell, 1821; Francis C. Champney, 1824 to 1827; James Stone, 1827 to 1830; Artemas Piper, 1830 to 1834; Charles C. Bassett, 1834, '35, '36, and 1840 to '45; Joseph Knowlton, Jr., 1837, '38, '39; Russell Carruth, 1845, '46, '60; Jason Goulding, 1847 to 1855; Pliny N. Ward, 1855; T. T. Miller, 1856 to 1860 and 1861; Thomas Martin, 1862 to 1867; Lyman White, 1867, '68, '69, '70; A. A. Bolton, 1871 to 1879; Emory S. Bates, 1879.

In politics the voters of Phillipston have generally gone together, almost to a man, whether as Federalists, in the early days of the town, or later, as Whigs and Republicans. So sure was the town in Whig times to go almost solid for that party, that it became designated in the political world as

"The little star which never sets."

The population of the town, since its incorporation, has been as follows :—  
1790-740; 1800-802; 1810-839; 1820-916; 1830-932; 1840-919; 1850-809; 1855-799; 1860-764; 1865-725; 1870-693; 1875-666.

Harris Lodge of Freemasons was removed from Athol to Gerry in 1811, and for several years its meetings were held at the hall of Elijah Gould.

The town now has a good band known as the Phillipston Brass Band, Aaron W. Merriam, leader.

The present town officers are : Clerk, Emory S. Bates ; selectmen, assessors and overseers of the poor, James A. Carruth, James Watts, Emory S. Bates ; school committee, C. Waldo Bates, George Whitney, George G. Smith ; treasurer and collector, S. E. Pike.

Among those who have been prominently identified with the business, social and political history of the town, may be mentioned Col. Ignatius Goulding, who moved from Leicester to Gerry in 1811, and in company with Samuel Damon of Holden, engaged in the manufacture of cotton and woolen goods ; three factories were built in the east part of the town, and for many years a large business was carried on there. He was a man of influence among his townsmen, and was active in obtaining the change in the name of the town from Gerry to Phillipston.

Hon. Jason Goulding, son of Col. Ignatius Goulding, was born in Paxton Oct. 26, 1801, and came with his father to Gerry in 1811. He was a clerk in a store at Holden for seven years, and during the rest of his life has always resided in Phillipston. He has held many offices of trust and honor in his town, county, and State, serving as State Senator from this district in 1846 and 1847 ; has been a member of the Legislature five years, the first time in 1834 and the last in 1866 ; was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1853 ; special commissioner of Worcester County for six years ; justice of the peace for more than forty years ; postmaster about thirty years, and has held nearly every town office. He is a leading member of the Congregational church, and still lives in the town where he has spent so active a life.

Edward Powers, who was a farmer and extensive lumber dealer, was a man honored and respected by the entire community. He held important town offices, and represented his district in the Legislature. He removed to Athol in 1878, where he died in the summer of 1879. At the time of his death he was a director of the Athol National Bank.

Deacon Courtlon Sanderson was largely engaged in the tanning business for many years ; he now devotes his time to agriculture, being one of the progress-

ive farmers of the day, who believes in the dignity and honor of his calling. He has been President of the Worcester North-west Agricultural and Mechanical Society, and a member of the State Board of Agriculture.

Among the sons of Phillipston, who have gone from their native town, and have gained honor and distinction in their adopted homes, are Rev. P. O. Powers, who graduated at Amherst College, and went as missionary to Turkey. He sailed for that place under the auspices of the American Board, Nov. 12, 1834, and died in Hassab, Turkey, Oct. 2, 1872; a daughter, Harriet G. Powers, is now a missionary teacher in Turkey.

Jeremiah L. Newton, graduated at Amherst in the class of 1850, was principal of the Brown Ladies' School, at Newburyport, three years, and of the Bath Academy and High School at Bath, Me., for five years. He went to Boston in 1859 and entered upon the practice of law, in which he is engaged at the present time. Was elected a member of the Common Council of Boston for three successive years, and a member of the Legislature two years, from the city of Boston.

Dr. Horace L. Bowker was born in Phillipston Nov. 22, 1832, and went to Boston in 1861, where he commenced the practice of medicine, in which he continued for eight years, when he became interested in chemistry and went into business as a manufacturing chemist, in which he is now engaged. He was elected a member of the City Council of Boston in 1864, and served in the Legislatures of 1873, 1875 and 1878. Was appointed State Assayer for Massachusetts in 1877, which office he now holds.

The author extends thanks to Hon. Jason Goulding and Charles C. Bassett, Esq., for valuable information. Also to L. B. Caswell, C. E., of Athol, for aid in preparation of MS., and to all others who have assisted him in obtaining material, and in the preparation of this, the first extended history of Phillipston.



## PRINCETON.

BY HON. CHARLES THEODORE RUSSELL.

## CHAPTER I.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SITUATION — WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN — INDIAN POSSESSIONS —  
SUBMISSION OF THE TRIBES TO THE ENGLISH — SUBSEQUENT OUTBREAK —  
MRS. ROWLANDSON'S SUFFERINGS — PURCHASE OF THE TERRITORY — ORIGINAL  
ALLOTMENTS — LABOR GRANTS.

PRINCETON is situated upon the highlands of Worcester County, a little north of its centre, and about midway of a line drawn nearly west from Boston to Connecticut River. It comprises more than 22,000 acres of rough, hilly, broken but fertile land, and constitutes one of the finest mountain regions of the State. It is bounded northerly by Westminster; easterly by Leominster and Sterling; southerly by Holden and Rutland; and westerly by Hubbardston. In its northern section, rises in graceful outline and beauty, Wachusett mountain, and with its adjacent hills occupies much the larger part of it. The mountain rears its rocky and wooded sides two thousand and eighteen feet above the sea, and some thousand above Pine Hill on its east, and little Wachusett on its west. The three constitute a range, which, viewed from the south and east, is rarely surpassed in picturesque and quiet loveliness.

The highest land between the sea and Connecticut River, and with the exception of Greylock, and one or two of the hills of central and southern Berkshire, in the State, it naturally attracted the early notice of the settlers upon Massachusetts Bay.

Jan. 27, 1632, old style, Feb. 7, 1633, by present reckoning, Winthrop, in his journal, writes:—

“The Governour and some company with him went up by Charles River about eight miles above Watertown.”\*

After naming certain streams and hills there found:—

“On the west side of Mount Feake, they went up a very high rock, from whence they might see all over Neipnett, and a very high hill, due west about forty miles off, & to the N. W. the high hills by Merrimack above sixty miles off.”\*

\* 1 Winthrop's Jour., 68.

This is the first mention, and probably the first sight of any portion of Worcester County by the colonists, as no part of its wilderness was traversed by civilized man, until Hooker's company, or their immediate predecessors, made their expedition towards the Connecticut in 1635.

Princeton then belonged to the Nashaways or Nashuas, who held the lands on and west of the river which still bears their name. Their sachem had his royal wigwam between the Waschacums in Sterling.

The region was naturally the resort, if not the residence, of the Indians. In 1643 Winthrop relates that—

“At this court Cutshamekin and squaw sachem, Mascononoco, Nashacowam and Wassamagoin, two sachems near the great hill of the west, called Wachusett, came into the court, and according to their former tender to the governor, desired to be received under our protection and government, upon the same term that Pumham and Sacononoco were; so we causing them to understand the articles, and all the ten commandments of God, and they freely assenting to all, they were solemnly received, and then presented the court with 26 fathom more of wampom, and the court gave each of them a coat of two yards of cloth and their dinner; and to them and their men every one of them a cup of sack at their departure, so they took leave and went away very joyful.”\*

A more extended account of this submission is given in the records of the Massachusetts Bay. As one of the earliest of the Indian treaties, of which our States and Country have since made so many, we give its record entire:—

“Wossamegon, Nashowanon, Cutshamache, Mascanomet & Squa Sachim did voluntarily submit themselves to us, as appeareth by their covenant subscribed w<sup>th</sup> their own hands, hear following, & oth<sup>r</sup> articles to w<sup>ch</sup> they consented—

“Wee have & by these presents do voluntarily & w<sup>th</sup>out any constraint or psuasion, but of o<sup>r</sup> owne free motion, put o<sup>r</sup>selves, o<sup>r</sup> subjects, lands, & estates under the government & jurisdiction of the Massachusetts, to bee governed & p<sup>te</sup>cted by them, according to their iust lawes & orders, so farr as wee shalbee made capable of understanding them; & wee do pmise for o<sup>r</sup>selves & all o<sup>r</sup> subiects & all o<sup>r</sup> posterity, to be true & faithfull to the said government, & ayding to the maintainance thereof, to o<sup>r</sup> best ability, and fro<sup>m</sup> time to time to give speedy notice of any conspiracy, attempt, or evill intention of any which wee shall know or heareof against the same; and wee do pmise to be willing fro<sup>m</sup> time to time to bee instructed in the knowledg & worship of God. In witnes whereof wee have hereunto put o<sup>r</sup> hands the 8<sup>th</sup> of the first m<sup>o</sup>, a 1643-1644.

“CUTSHAMACHE.  
NASHOWANON.  
WOSSAMEGON.  
MASKANOMETT.  
SQUA SACHIM.

“Certaine Questions ppounded to the Indians and Answers.

“1. To worship y<sup>e</sup> onely true God, w<sup>ch</sup> made heaven & earth, & not to blasphemize him.

"An: We do desire to reverence y<sup>e</sup> God of y<sup>e</sup> English, & to speake well of him, because wee see hee doth better to y<sup>e</sup> English than other Gods do to others.

"2. Not so swear falcely. An: They say they know not w<sup>t</sup> swering is among y<sup>m</sup>.

"3. Not to do any unnecessary worke on y<sup>e</sup> Sabath day, especially w<sup>th</sup>in y<sup>e</sup> gates of christian townes. An: It is easy to y<sup>m</sup>; they have not much to do on any day, & they can well take their ease on y<sup>t</sup> day.

"4. To hono<sup>r</sup> their parents & all their supio<sup>r</sup>s. An: It is their custome to do so, for the inferio<sup>r</sup>s to hono<sup>r</sup> their supio<sup>r</sup>s.

"5. To kill no man w<sup>th</sup>out iust cause and iust authority. Ans: This is good & they desire to do so.

"6. To comit no unclean lust, &c. . . . An: Though sometime some of y<sup>m</sup> do it, yet they count that naught, & do not alow it.

"7. Not to steale. An: They say to y<sup>t</sup> as to y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> quere.

"To suffer their children to learn to reade Gods word, y<sup>t</sup> they may earn to know God aright, & worship in his owne way.

"They say, as oportunity will serve, & English live among y<sup>m</sup>, they desire so to do.

"That they should not be idle.

"To these they consented, acknowledging y<sup>m</sup> to bee good.

"Being received by us, they psented 26 fathome of wampum, & the court directed the Treasurer to give them five coats, two yards in a coate, of red cloth, & a potfull of wine."\*

In spite of this solemn compact, supplemented by religious instruction, and ratified by the parting "pot full of wine," its makers, within a generation, were engaged in savage hostilities with the government, to which they had acknowledged allegiance, and from the summit of the mountain they had surrendered, devoted its towns to pillage and slaughter. At the outbreak of the Narraganset war, in 1675, they joined King Philip, and after his defeat in his own country, the "lands about the Wachussetts" became one of the head-quarters of his followers, where he was frequently present. In 1676, although some of them had received the pious instructions of Eliot and Gookin, they made the disastrous attack upon Lancaster, so familiar to us from the simple and touching narrative of Mrs. Rowlandson.

After her capture she was taken to this mountain, and by successive "Removes," through the wilderness to Squakeag (Northfield), on the Connecticut.

"After many weary steps," says this trustful, Christian woman, returning from her wilderness, winter wanderings, "We came to Wachussett." As they approached it through a great swamp "up to their knees in mud and water," she says: "Going along, having indeed my life, but little spirit, Philip (who was in the company), came up and took me by the hand and said, 'Two weeks more and you shall be mistress again.' I asked him if he spoke true? He answered, 'Yes, and quickly you shall come to your master again.'"

She remained at Wachusset, until released. Not only was King Philip with her



captors, but several other of the leading Sagamores, and among them Quinna-pin, the master of Mrs. Rowlandson, and his wife, the celebrated "Squaw Sachim," Metamoo, "Queen of Pocasset," "a severe and proud Dame," says her captive, "bestowing every Day in dressing herself near as much Time as any of the Gentry of the Land, powdering her Hair and painting her Face." "Next unto Phillip in respect to the mischief that hath been done and the blood that hath been shed in this warr," says Cotton Mather.

Mrs. Rowlandson was here when the Indians returned from Marlborough, and witnessed and graphically describes their grand powwow, preparatory to attacking Sudbury, as well as that on the return from that slaughter.

That "Wachusett" was at this time "the Head-quarters" of the hostile Indians appears, not only from Mrs. Rowlandson's narrative, but from those of Hubbard and Mather, the letters of Capt. Henechman, in command of the Colony forces, and official communications to the Indians by the General Court. May 3, 1676, it sent Seth Perry as its "messenger to the sachems at Wachusets," with a letter, addressed to "the Saggamore about Watchusetts, Phillip, John, Sam, Waskaken, Old Queen and Pomham," all leading sachems in Indian history. But before Perry,

"On a sabbath, the sun being about an hour high in the afternoon, came Mr. John Hoar (the council permitting him, and his own forward spirit inclining him), with the two Indians, Tom & Peter, with the third letter from the Council."

He at once opened negotiations for Mrs. Rowlandson's release. The narrative continues:—

"In the morning Mr. Hoar invited the Saggamores to dinner; but when we went to get it ready we found they had stolen the greater part of the provisions Mr. Hoar had brought."

This graceless act worked less mischief in these early diplomatic Wachusett festivities than it might, "because," as the lady says,—

"Mr. Hoar called them betime to dinner, but they eat but little, they being so busy in dressing themselves & getting ready for their dance; which was carried on by eight of them, four men and four squaws; my master and mistress being two. He was dressed in his holland shirt, with great stockings, his garters hung round with shillings, and had girdles of wampum upon his head and shoulders. She had a kersey coat, covered with girdles of wampum from the loins upward. Her arms, from her elbows to her hands, were covered with bracelets; there were handfuls of necklaces about her neck, and several sorts of jewels in her ears. She had fine red stockings, and white shoes, her hair powdered, and her face painted red, that was always before black. And all the dancers were after the same manner."

The narrative proceeds:—

"On Tuesday morning, they called their General Court (as they stiled it), to consult and determine whether I should go home or no. And they all seemingly consented that I should go, except Philip, who would not come among them."

This absence of Philip is explained by a previous passage in the narrative:—

"Philip smelling the business, called me to him, & asked me what I would give him to tell me some good news, & to speak a good word for me that I might go home to-morrow. I told him I could not tell what to give him; I would any thing I had, & asked him what he would have? He said two coats, & 20 shillings in money, & half a bushel of seed corn, & some tobacco. I thanked him for his love, but I knew that good news as well as that crafty fox."

On the 30th of April, old style, Mrs. Rowlandson was released to Mr. Hoar, at a place tradition still points out, in a meadow, near a gigantic boulder, ever since known as "Redemption Rock, at the eastern base of the mountain and near the shores of the pond of the same name; but not, however, until Mr. Hoar had been obliged to conciliate the royal Quannapin with a pint of rum, upon which he at once got beastly drunk, to the no small alarm of his captive, and scandal of his royal spouse.

With the close of the war the Indians practically resigned forever this beautiful spot to their persistent invaders.

In 1682, commissioners Stoughton and Dudley, appointed to negotiate with the Nipmucks for their lands, report a purchase from "Black James," but say "The Northern part, towards Wachusett is still unpurchased, and *persons yet scarcely to be found meet to be treated with thereabouts.*"

Four years later private enterprise was more successful, and Henry Willard, Joseph Rowlandson, Joseph Foster, Benjamin Willard and Hyperion Stevens purchased of Puagastion, Pompanamam, Wannapan, Sassawannow and Qualipunit, "a certain tract of lands Medows, Swamps, Timbers, Etervils containing twelve miles square." For this they paid twenty-three pounds, or about eighty cents a square mile. This territory included the southern and larger part of Princeton.

Nothing seems to have been done under this deed until 1714, when the General Court, on the application of the sons and grandsons of Maj. Simon Willard and others confirmed to them the title, provided there should be settled on the lands sixty families in seven years, and "sufficient lands reserved for the use of the gospel minister and school."

Three plans of this purchase, known as Naquag, are in the archives of the Commonwealth; the last a very accurate one presented by Rev. Thomas Prince and others, a committee of the proprietors, in 1749, when they asked the grant of a land tax. Upon this, the portion afterwards included in Princeton is laid down as Rutland East Wing. It is a parallelogram nearly, all its lines being perfectly straight, the east and west each eleven hundred and fifty rods, the south sixteen hundred and ninety rods, and the north sixteen hundred rods. Its area varies somewhat on these and later plans, a fact not surprising in those days of liberal allowance "for sags of the chain." It contained about eleven thousand and seven hundred acres, and the north line separating it from the Province lands, then unsurveyed and extending far beyond, ran straight from the south-east corner of what was subsequently known as the



WACHUSETT HOUSE, PRINCETON, MASS.





letter M lot to the extreme south-west edge of Wachusett. The Meeting-House Hill was then called Turkey Hill, and this line ran along the depression between the Wachusetts, where the road now passes.

This tract remained in common, neither surveyed nor explored, till 1718, when it was divided by the proprietors into forty-eight farms of two hundred and thirty-seven acres each. At this time, there were thirty-three proprietors, and at a meeting in Boston, November 5th of that year, one of these farms was assigned to each by lot. The three meadow lots — Pout Water, Wachusett and Dead Meadow — were reserved for common use. Twelve lots, marked by proprietors from A to M, were also reserved, — eleven for the proprietors, the other "for the first ordained minister of Rutland." The full list of the proprietors, with the lot of each, is recorded in their records.

The lettered lots were owned in common until Sept. 24, 1734, when, at a meeting of the proprietors at the Royal Exchange Tavern, Boston, these lots, together with the "gores and gussets," were divided. At the same meeting, it was voted that sixty-three acres "in lot No. A [this included the Meeting-House Hill], not having been set off to any of the proprietors, by reason of the brokenness of it, be granted to Rev. Mr. Thomas Prince, in consideration of the great care and labor he has taken in calculating and computing the divisions above-mentioned, and other good services performed to the proprietors."

In November, 1736, the Wachusett, Pout Water and Dead Meadow lots were divided, in the division one acre of meadow being "valued as three acres of upland." Thus the whole territory became subdivided, and passed to individuals. Of these, the Rev. Mr. Prince, as the proprietor of five shares, was the largest owner, although he does not appear to have been a proprietor at the division of 1718. Probably still further purchases were made by him before 1759.

The northerly and remaining portion of the town, comprising at its incorporation seven thousand two hundred and eighty-three acres, is composed of several distinct grants. The largest and most important was made to the towns of Weston and Watertown.

In 1651, Watertown, then embracing Weston, was involved in a controversy with Sudbury, as to boundaries, which the General Court settled in favor of Sudbury. At the same time, it passed an order that "Water Towne shall have two thousand ackers of land laid out nere Assabeth River, in respect of such land as was wanting to them, which was granted them formerly by this Court to be the bounds of their towne."

For some reason, this grant never took effect, or was never located. In 1728, Watertown and Weston, which had then been incorporated, petitioned to have it revived; and, in June of that year, the General Court granted to those towns two thousand acres, to be located in any unappropriated lands of the Province. In November, it was selected, surveyed, and a plan returned

to the General Court, in which it is described as "in the unappropriated land, joining to the Great Wachusett Hill, bounded south-westerly by Rutland line of their township, every other way by Province land." This tract ran on the Rutland line a little more than two and a half miles. Its lines are all straight except the west, which is very daintily deflected to exclude the mountain, and at the same time include all the valuable land at its base. Wachusett was no favorite with the land-seekers.

This tract, commencing at a point on the line of Rutland East Wing, a little south-easterly of the Whitney Hill, extended to East Princeton, including a part of that village, and thence over or to the north of Pine Hill to the base of Wachusett, and thence along this to the Rutland line. It was known as the Watertown Farm, and is usually so called in the public documents of the time. It was sold by the towns to proprietors, and by them divided into farms of equal value.

Another grant of fifteen hundred acres was made to Thomas Plaisted. This tract is usually called the Potash Farm in the public records. When granted is uncertain. In 1760, the General Court directed William Richardson to demand of Timothy Mosman possession of the "fifteen hundred acres granted Plaisted on certain conditions which were not fulfilled by him." In 1761, they sent a committee to prevent and prosecute the encroachments upon this farm of Lancaster, that town then including Sterling, and claiming some part of it to be within its bounds. In 1762, an attempt was made to sell this, a farm of eighty acres west of it, and the Wachusett, at auction, putting them up at a limited minimum price. The same year, Ezra Taylor, as a committee, came up and ran the lines of the Potash Farm, and reported that he found the most valuable part of the timber cut, and adds: "I can't find out any person who has done it except one, Timothy Mosman, who was then in possession."

In 1764, the General Court, on the last day of its session, granted the farm to Gen. Timothy Ruggles, the speaker, "in testimony of their grateful sense of the important services he rendered his country during the late war."

Besides these larger, there were various grants to individuals. In 1729, three hundred acres to Rev. Joseph Willard of Rutland, and two hundred to Benjamin Muzzy. In 1732, four hundred to Rev. Benjamin Allen, and two hundred, in 1733, to Joseph Stevens, and one hundred and twenty to Joshua Wilder, Jr., in 1743. There were also the Blagrow and the Mayhew farms, and there was included in the town at the incorporation a considerable area of Province land, of which the mountain was part.



## CHAPTER II.

BEGINNING OF SETTLEMENT — INCORPORATION AND NAME — FIRST MEETING-HOUSE — OLD-TIME MINISTERS — CHURCH HISTORY — MORE RECENT DENOMINATIONS — PRESENT CONDITION — MOUNTAINOUS FEATURES — HOTELS AND SUMMER VISITORS — WAR RECORD — SPIRIT OF LIBERTY, EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS LIFE.

As early as 1734 votes were passed by the Rutland proprietors in reference to "bringing forward settlements in the East wing," but none were made. The first settlement was made not upon this tract, nor upon "the Watertown farm," but by an enterprising pioneer upon a grant obtained by him from the Province. In 1742 Joshua Wilder, Jr., grandson of Nathaniel Wilder of Lancaster, who was grandson of an earlier Nathaniel, killed in the Indian attacks upon that town, presented a petition to the General Court, wherein he sets forth:—

"That the distance between Lancaster and a new town called Nichewaug (Peter-sham) is about 25 miles: That about ten miles west of Lancaster Meeting-House there is a tract of Province land, which contains about 120 acres lying between land formerly granted to Mr. Plaisted and Allen, and a farm called Blagrow farm, which lys out of the bounds of any Town. That your petitioner, though a poor man, yet he humbly apprehends he hath the character of an Honest and Laborious man, and is minded to settle himself and family thereon.

"That, therefore, he is very desirous of obtaining a grant of said land on such conditions as may be consistent with your Excellency's and Honorable wisdom, on as easy terms as maybe, and should he obtain it, he apprehends it would be of great service to people travelling from Lancaster to the new towns now settling westward, to have a house to depart to in their travelling."

Upon this petition the Court made the grant, provided the petitioner "does within one year have a good and convenient house built thereon for the accommodation of Travellers, and have ten acres thereof cleared and brought to English grass or plowing within four years, and that he dwell therein with his family, or have other good family dwell thereon."

Upon this grant, made in aid of the pioneer emigrants to the then West, Mr. Wilder settled in 1743. He continued to occupy it until 1755, when he conveyed it to Benjamin Houghton.

The next settler, and the first in the Rutland tract, was Abijah Moore, subsequently a leading man in the town and church, who began the farm now owned by Thomas H. Russell, and there opened a second tavern. The third settler was Mr. Cheever, in the southerly part of the East wing.

The fourth was Robert Keyes, noted as a hunter, and hence probably guided in his choice of settlement. He settled upon the farm on the back of Pine Hill, and upon the eastern slope of Wachusett, where the present carriage-road

to its summit commences. Shortly after his settlement, he lost a daughter, who strayed into the woods, following her older sisters, who had gone to the neighboring pond. No traces of her were ever found. In 1765 Mr. Keyes presented a petition to the General Court, in which he says: —

“ In y<sup>e</sup> year of 1755 he lost one of his children, and was supposed to be taken by the Indians and carried to Canada. When it was first lost it was apprehended to be in the woods, wandering about, & your petitioner was at great cost and trouble in searching the woods for it, but to no good purpose; after this he hears that it was at Canada & that he could get further information thereof at Porchmouth in New Hampshire; on hearing that he went there, & also sent to Canada afterwards. He advertised said child in the New York papers, & upon that he had an account of such child being among the Mohawks & determined to go after his child last Fall, but has hitherto been prevented by reason of sickness and death in his family. And the loss he hath been at in seeking for said child hath been so great, being about 100 pounds lawful money, that he is not able to bear it, being in a new plantation, & as there is within sixty rods of his door some Province land lying on ye Watchussetts hill, which would be some advantage to him providing he could have it; therefore, your Petitioner prays this Hon. Court to take his case in your compassionate consideration & make him a grant of ye easterly half of said Wachusett hill.”

This petition is endorsed “negatived” in the handwriting of the secretary.

The mountain itself, containing about 500 acres, we may here add, was granted by the Province in 1768 to Rev. Timothy Fuller, then minister of the town.

Subsequent to 1750 settlements must have been quite rapid, as in 1759, after no little controversy between the inhabitants of “the Wing” and “the Farms,” a petition of forty-five citizens representing that neither “the Wing” nor “the Farms” alone would be able to defray the charges of building a meeting-house, settling a minister and maintaining the Gospel among them, and making roads, without an intolerable heavy tax”; that “both Wing and Farms are at present under very difficult circumstances by the extreme distance, & badness of the roads to the public worship of God in any other town,” and praying for incorporation as a town, was presented to the General Court. At the same session a petition was presented by twenty-one other citizens, in answer to the first petition, and praying that “the East wing” might be incorporated as a town or district. In this petition, among other things, they aver that “they had rather have one-quarter of their Reel estate taken from them, than to be obliged to Joyne with these people,” (the Farms) “where they are certain they shall always live in Trouble and Difficulty.” A controversy of considerable asperity arose, but ended in the incorporation of the whole territory as a District on the 20th of October, 1759, under the name of Prince Town. The fears of the southerners were speedily allayed, and from that day to this never has a town been more free from sectional strife or animosities.

The town was named in honor of Rev. Thomas Prince of the Old South Church, Boston, one of the largest of the Rutland proprietors, and their secretary, and who had then recently died.

The first District Meeting was held Dec. 24, 1759, at Mr. Moore's tavern, where all meetings continued to be held until the meeting-house was so far built as to be used in 1763. The records of these meetings, until 1761, are lost from the record book. Dr. Zachariah Harvey was the first town clerk, and was evidently then the most influential citizen. The petition for incorporation is in his handwriting, and in 1761 he was not only clerk, but moderator, chairman of the selectmen, of the assessors, and agent to the General Court. The proceedings of the meeting, however, at which he attained this plurality of offices, were contested; a protest declaring them illegal "by reason of the meeting not being purged from such persons or voters as are unqualified by law to vote," was filed. A memorial was sent to the General Court charging the doctor with pretty high-handed measures, and praying to have all the proceedings declared void, because "many persons" were "admitted to vote that were not legal voters, & some that were not even inhabitants." He was called upon "to render an account of the proceedings complained of," which he did in an answer, missing from the files. The decision was in his favor and the proceedings confirmed.

The only roads then existing were the Province Road from Lancaster to Sunderland, along the north-east line of the town, crossing the edge of Wachusett Pond in Westminster; a road to Hubbardston, and a road from Westminster line, south of the mountain, near Meeting-House Hill, to Holden.

Upon incorporation, it became at once the duty of the district to build a meeting-house and settle a gospel minister. The house was not located without controversy; several meetings were held, and finally a committee was selected from Bolton, Holden and Westminster, with surveyors from Westborough and Rutland, "all to be under oath for the trust committed to them to survey the town, find the centre, and affix the place for building the meeting-house on." The report of this committee would be of great interest, but it is unfortunately lost. The town refused to accept it, and finally voted to build the house "on the highest part of the land" (Meeting-house Hill) "given by John and Caleb Mirick, near three pine trees, marked, being near a large flat rock." The trees are gone, but the rock remains, a favorite resort of modern visitors, who, obtaining from it a remarkably fine sunset view, have christened it "Sunset Rock." Here a meeting-house "fifty foots long and forty foots wide" was built, and remained until 1796, when it was superseded by its larger and more elegant successor, upon the same spot, where it stood a conspicuous and beautiful landmark to the surrounding country, until unwisely removed in 1838.

The first preaching in the district was at the tavern of Mr. Moore, where an old lady living in 1838, then informed the writer that she heard the sermon preached by Rev. Mr. Harrington of Lancaster, on the occasion of the incorpo-



ration. "There were then," she said, "but a handful of us, who found our way to church by marked trees." Estimating by the petitioners for incorporation, there must then have been not over three hundred and fifty inhabitants in the district, — probably less.

The first church was formed Aug. 12, 1764, and its covenant, that usual in Congregational churches of the time, was signed by eighteen citizens, and by no females.

In 1767 the Rev. Timothy Fuller, after a call had been declined by the Rev. Sewall Goodrich, was settled as the first minister by the church and district.

On the 24th of April, 1771, upon petition of the district, it "with all the lands adjoining to said District, not included in any other town or District" was incorporated into a town by the name of "Princeton." The additions of this act increased the area of the town to somewhat more than twenty-two thousand acres. It contained then ninety-one dwelling-houses, and of its territory eighty-three and three-fourths acres had been redeemed to tillage, one thousand and eighty-three to pasturage land; its population was about seven hundred, and included *one slave*.

As the Constitution and laws then were, the town was the parish, and continued to act as such until the amendment of the Constitution relieving the people from compulsory support of religious worship, in 1833. For nearly fifty-three years, down to the settlement of Rev. Samuel Clarke in June, 1817, there was no difference of religious sentiment in the church or town.

In 1768 the General Court granted Mr. Fuller the mountain, in consideration of his settlement with "a heavily burdened people" in a "wilderness country," and thus this grandest and most interesting object in the landscape, unfortunately passed into private hands.

Mr. Fuller, after no little and bitter controversy, was dismissed at the opening of the Revolution, on account of difficulties between him and his people, growing out of that great conflict. Mutual confidence was, however, after the war, restored. Mr. Fuller came back to reside in Princeton, and in 1789 was its delegate to the State Convention to act on the Federal Constitution, when he gave his vote against it, on the ground, it is said, of its implied recognition of slavery.

The ministers who succeeded Mr. Fuller, up to 1817, were the Rev. Thomas Crafts, settled in 1786 and dismissed, at his request, in 1791; Rev. Joseph Russell, settled in 1796, and dismissed, at his request, in 1801; the Rev. James Murdock, D. D., settled in 1802, and dismissed in 1815, to assume a professorship in the University of Vermont.

At the dismissal of Dr. Murdock the town, and a minority of the church, had adopted the Unitarian sentiments, then so largely developing among the Congregationalists of Massachusetts. Princeton became the scene of one of the earlier and exciting conflicts between church and town, which grew out of this development.

Aug. 26, 1816, the Rev. Samuel Clarke, a graduate of Dartmouth College, and a theological pupil of the late Dr. Channing, was "called" by the town, without previous action by the church, by a vote of one hundred and two to forty-four, to settle as Dr. Murdock's successor, from whom he was known to differ upon material points of religious faith. The church resented this action of the town as irregular and un-congregational, and refused by a large majority to concur in it. The town was disposed to carry out to the full extent the spirit of the then recent judicial decisions, as to the relative rights of church and town; and after a second ineffectual attempt to get the concurrence of the church, resolved to proceed without it. Mr. Clarke declined its call. Then followed renewed calls by the town, and refusals by the church. An ecclesiastical council was called, a majority of which advised the settlement of Mr. Clarke, and agreed to recognize so many of the members of the church as should adopt an amended covenant, submitted by this majority, "as the Church of Christ in Princeton." This "Result" was warmly discussed at the time by Rev. Dr. Bancroft of Worcester, of the majority, and by Rev. Dr. Goffe of Millbury, of the minority of the council, in elaborate pamphlets. Mr. Clarke accepted the call of the town and this minority of the church, and was ordained June 18, 1817, the Rev. Dr. Pierce of Brookline preaching the sermon. He continued in office until 1832, when, at his request, he was dismissed.

A large majority of the church, acting as the church, left the house of worship, — refused to recognize Mr. Clarke as their pastor, and voted to adopt the government of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, its articles of faith and discipline, and to become connected with the Newburyport Presbytery.

In 1819 they built a small house of worship near the existing meeting-house, their rights, after some litigation, having been recognized by the town. In 1820 the Rev. Alonzo Phillips was settled as pastor of this church. The ordination sermon was preached by the Rev. Professor Woods of Andover, a native of the town. The church subsequently dissolved its connection with the Presbytery, and returned to the Congregational order.

The town under the amended constitution ceased to be a parish, and a society was organized. After the dismissal of Mr. Clarke, various efforts were made to re-unite the two churches but without success. In 1833, Rev. John P. Cowles, an Orthodox Congregationalist, was settled as Mr. Clarke's successor, and the original church covenant restored. Mr. Cowles, at his own request, was dismissed in October, 1834. Efforts were now renewed for a union, which resulted, after several ecclesiastical councils, in partial success.

In 1836, Mr. Phillips, at his own request, was dismissed by the church and society to which he had for sixteen years ministered. In the same year Rev. Elijah Demond was settled over the united church and society. He was dismissed at his request in 1839, and in the following year Rev. Willard M. Harding succeeded him, and continued the pastor until 1844, when at his request he was dismissed, and succeeded by Rev. Alfred Goldsmith in 1845,

who, at his request, was dismissed in 1849, and was succeeded by Rev. Henry Weeks in 1852; at his request he was dismissed in 1855; Rev. William T. Briggs succeeded him in 1856, and was dismissed at his request in 1863. The church was then supplied for three or four years by Rev. Mr. Zelig, until Rev. Roger M. Sargent was installed in 1869, and at his request dismissed in 1871. In 1876, Rev. George M. Howe, the present pastor was ordained.

In 1838 the society built the neat and commodious-meeting house in the centre of the town, in which it now worships.

In 1817, a Baptist society was organized by residents of this town and Holden. It was supplied with preaching part of the time, mainly by Rev. Elisha Andrews. In July, 1822, a church was organized. In 1826, Rev. Elias Johnson became and remained its pastor until 1830. In 1828, a small brick meeting-house was built about a mile north of the centre of the town. In October of that year, Rev. Appleton Morse became pastor and so remained until April, 1832. He was succeeded in July, 1834, by Rev. Nehemiah G. Lovell, who remained pastor until 1836, and was in 1837 succeeded by Rev. Mason Ball, who remained until 1841, when he was succeeded by Rev. Orlando Cunningham, dismissed in 1844. Meantime the society erected a new and much larger meeting-house, nearly opposite that of the Congregationalists in the village. After 1844 the society became greatly reduced and subsequently ceased to exist. Its meeting-house was sold and became the hotel, now the Prospect House.

In 1839 a Methodist Episcopal church was organized and during that and the next year a commodious house of worship was built at the village, a little north of the centre of the town, and a society duly organized. Since then it has had a regular succession of the able and efficient ministers which, according to its forms and practice, that large and influential branch of the Christian church is accustomed to locate upon its stations throughout the country.

The inhabitants of this town have ever been in full sympathy with the spirit of the Commonwealth, not only religious, but political, educational and social. They have always been an intelligent, industrious, cultured, agricultural people, none very rich, and all practically above distressing want.

They have contributed with New England liberality in support of all institutions of education, religion and charity. Almost exclusively devoted to agriculture, in one department of it, that of rearing fine cattle, and in products of the dairy, they have won a well deserved reputation. Since its early days the town has not increased in numbers and has less now than in earlier periods of its history. The venerable historian of Worcester County, in 1793, says:—

“In little more than thirty years from its incorporation, Princeton is become very considerable among the towns of the county. It has surprisingly increased in numbers and wealth. The finest of beef is fatted here and vast quantities of butter and cheese produced, and from the appearance of their buildings and farms we must judge the people are very industrious.”



He closes a glowing description of the seat of Hon. Moses Gill, thus :—

“Upon the whole, this seat of Judge [Gov.] (?) Gill, all the agreeable circumstances respecting being attentively considered, is not paralleled by any in the New England States ; perhaps not by any on this side of the Delaware.”

President Dwight, in 1797, speaks of Princeton as a rich grazing township, and adds, “the houses of the inhabitants, and the appearance of their farms are sufficient indication of prosperity, and the people are distinguished for industry, sobriety and good morals.” He also speaks of Gov. Gill’s estate “as more splendid than any other in the interior of the State.”

Neither the town nor the character of its people have degenerated in the fourscore years since these commendations were written. In the neatness, beauty and convenience of its dwellings, and in its agriculture the town has, like its neighbors, improved. It has impaired somewhat its natural beauties by the great and often wasteful clearing up of its grand old woodlands, an injury nature will repair, if the woodman’s axe and fires can be even now stayed.

Being a mountain region, easily accessible, with a clear, elastic, bracing air, always healthy and invigorating, with a landscape attractive and charming ; it has become of late years very largely the resort of summer visitors. Large hotels and boarding-houses have been built for their accommodation which, during the warm months, are filled with numbers, increasing each year, seeking health and pleasure on these delightful hills. A carriage road has recently been constructed to the top of Wachusett, and a hotel erected there large enough to accommodate a goodly number of guests, as well as the transient visitors which by thousands annually come to it. From this house is obtained perhaps the finest view in the State, extending from its northern to its southern limits, and from Connecticut River to Boston Bay.

By a valuation in 1771 Princeton had ninety-one dwellings ; 183 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres of tillage ; and 1,083 of pasture land. In 1790 its dwellings were 144.

This valuation of 1771 reveals the significant fact, that upon these mountain heights, since so often vocal with the shouts of freedom, there was then *one slave*.

In 1800 the number of dwelling-houses were but four more than in 1790, while in the seventy-five years since they have only increased to 261, or at the rate of one and a half a year.

The population 1776, 701 ; 1790, 1,016 ; 1800, 1,021 ; 1810, 1,062 ; 1820, 1,261, 1830, 1,346 ; 1840, 1,347 ; 1850, 1,318 ; 1860, 1,201 ; 1870, 1,279 ; 1875, 1,063. It has increased but 47 in 85 years.

The number of acres of land taxed in 1875, was 22,040, of which 15,840 was included in 185 farms, and 3,633 were under cultivation ; 9,640 acres are returned as unimproved ; and 2,698 as woodland.

The products of the town are almost exclusively agricultural, and find, especially since it has become so popular a summer resort, their market within its limits.

Through its whole history the people of Princeton have sympathized, and kept fully abreast of the prevailing sentiment of the country.

In matters ecclesiastical they have had their divisions and controversies, sometimes the result of pervading changes in the community; sometimes special to themselves, but they have never failed in an earnest and efficient support of the institutions of the gospel, from the day when united they settled Mr. Fuller, to the present, when they are divided in their religious sympathies between the Puritan faith, and that of the great church Wesley founded, Whitefield honored, and good men everywhere respect and love.

In all the great struggles which have marked, and so largely made our country's history, they have been intelligent, early and active participants. They fought the preparatory battles of freedom with their king against the French, and its ultimate battles with the French against their king. They were constant and discriminating supporters of all the measures of the Revolution, from its first dawn to its glorious consummation. Twice at least their action was of character and importance enough to secure honorable mention by the latest and ablest of the historians of the United States. Among them at this time, as a leading and patriotic spirit, was the Hon. Moses Gill, afterwards lieutenant and acting governor of the State, and who is some where called by Samuel Adams, "The Duke of Princeton."

They voted for our State Constitution, but with an adherence to its State rights assertion, too ardent to leave their judgment quite clear, they voted against the adoption of the Constitution of the United States. Since it was adopted they have ever sustained it, and when its hour of danger came, in the recent Rebellion, cheerfully and with alacrity they rallied to its defence, assuming their every responsibility and meeting every duty. Their first action was April 29, 1861, when \$3,000 was appropriated to be used for the enlistment and drilling of any recruits and for the benefit of their families.

"Princeton furnished one hundred and twenty men for the war, which was a surplus of nine over and above all demands," one-tenth of its population, and more then one-third of its voters and polls. It expended for war purposes exclusive of State aid, \$14,456.52, and in State aid \$4,760 13. We have no space for the roll of its patriots, dead or living. It contributed its full share of sacrifice, sorrow and suffering to the desolations of war, and demands of country.

Brief is our sketch of this little mountain town. Its history is not eventful. Its place upon the map of even a county is not large: but as its people look upon its free hills and valleys robed in their resplendent autumn beauties; upon its farms, from which the teeming harvests are being gathered and garnered; its homes of comfort and plenty; contentment and love; its churches for the service of God; its schools for the education of men; upon their own independent, prosperous, moral and happy condition; they at least may bend in grateful homage before the Great Giver of it all and say, "Surely the lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, and we have a goodly heritage."

# ROYALSTON.

BY GEORGE W. HERR, LL. B.

## CHAPTER I.

AUSPICIOUS ORIGIN — PROPRIETORSHIPS — INCORPORATION — ESTABLISHMENT OF BOUNDARIES — NATURAL FEATURES — SCENERY — INTERESTING MINERALS AND GEMS — ABSENCE OF INDIANS — SPIRIT OF LIBERTY — REVOLUTIONARY NOTES — WAR OF 1812 — FIRST MEETING-HOUSE — PASTORAL SUCCESSION — INTEREST IN SCHOOLS — COLLEGIATE LISTS.

ROYALSTON is a beautiful specimen of a true New England town. Situated among grand and lovely scenery, the inhabitants seem to have become imbued with the inspiration which the beautiful in Nature ever produces in the mind of man; and all through the history of the town they have shown a sturdy patriotism, a zeal for religion, and a desire for educational privileges. Not a town in this grand old Commonwealth of historic towns can boast of a better beginning or a more reputable heritage of name and blood. The proprietors and early settlers of Royalston were men of character, whose influence can be traced throughout the whole structure of our nation, and they laid here, on these splendid old hills, the foundation of a town in which those sterling qualities of the glorious days of New England have come down through the generations to the present time.

The territory comprised in the township of Royalston passed from a public domain to private hands in two ways—by public sales and private grants. It was the last of the entire territory of Worcester County to be disposed of by grants and charters, and in this respect is the last and youngest of the towns of the county. Twenty-three hundred acres of its area were comprised in four grants, known as Pierpont's, Priest's, Hapgood's, and a grant to Benoni Moore, Joseph Pettey, and Robert Cooper, while 28,357 acres were purchased at public sale by Samuel Watts, Thomas Hubbard, Isaac Freeman, Joseph Richards, Isaac Royal, Caleb Dana, James Otis, Joseph Wilder, Jr., and John Chandler, Jr., the deed being given Dec. 27, 1752, and the price paid, £1,348. At a later date, others famous in the annals of New England and national history became proprietors of Royalston soil. Among these were John Hancock,



the first Governor of Massachusetts and first signer of the Declaration of Independence, James Bowdoin, the second Governor of the State, while James Otis, one of the original purchasers, was the eloquent orator of the Revolution, whose clarion notes aroused his countrymen to action. Lady Temple, widow of Sir John Temple, baronet, also once owned eight hundred acres of Royalston land.

The proprietors, at their first meeting, held at the "Bunch of Grapes" tavern in Boston, voted that the land be called Royal-shire, "whereupon the Hon. Isaac Royal generously gave his word to give the partners twenty-five pounds sterling towards building a Meeting-House in said town." From the time of purchase until 1787, a period of thirty-four years, the proprietors held meetings. It was at their first meeting that they ordered the land to be laid off into sixty lots for settlers, and three others for a minister, for the support of worship and for a school. In 1765 this was further increased by setting apart 231 acres for the first minister, 424 acres for the ministry, and 420 acres for the school. Thus did the first proprietors of Royalston recognize and liberally provide for the cause of religion and education, making it the foundation upon which was to be reared the superstructure of their town.

The French and Indian War, which for seven years raged fiercely throughout New England, drew heavily from the young men of Massachusetts, and the settlement of the grant was delayed, so that it was in 1762 before an active settlement of the town was commenced. In June of that year six families moved into the settlement; and from that time the increase was very rapid, there being about forty families at the close of 1767. On February 16, 1765, the town was incorporated with the name of Royalston, in honor of Hon. Isaac Royal, one of the proprietors.

The first town meeting was held May 7, of that year, when the following town officers were elected: Clerk, John Fry; Treasurer, Peter Woodbury; Selectmen, John Fry, Timothy Richardson, and Benjamin Woodbury. The original territory, which contained thirty thousand six hundred and fifty-seven acres, has been subjected to several changes since. About two thousand acres were set off to Winchendon in 1780; several thousand acres were taken for Orange, in 1783, when that town was incorporated; three or four hundred acres were added from Athol and Gerry in 1799; a portion of Athol was annexed in 1803; and in 1837 not far from two hundred acres were taken from Phillipston and joined to Royalston, making at the present time about twenty-six thousand eight hundred and eighty-two acres. The boundaries are: New Hampshire on the north, Winchendon on the east, Templeton, Phillipston, and Athol on the south, and Orange and Warwick on the west. It is, by the Hoosac Tunnel line of railroad, seventy-seven miles north-west of Boston.

The scenery of the town is beautiful; high and verdure-covered hills overlook the surrounding country, intersected with valleys through which flow the waters of Tully and Miller's rivers, the Lawrence and Priest's. On one of these hills

the founders of Royalston located their village, overlooked by the Grand Monadnock. Not only do the hill-tops present scenes of beauty, but the streams in the valleys below contain gorges and waterfalls, with the grandest and wildest of natural scenery. Three of these are described by Prof. Hitchcock in his "Geology of Massachusetts." The most important of these is situated in the extreme north-west part of the town, and is commonly known as Forbes' Falls, although sometimes called by the name of the Royal Cascade, suggested by Prof. Hitchcock. Here a stream descends fifty feet at a single leap into a deep gorge, which has the appearance of being excavated by erosion. The scene presented is one of wildness and grandeur, rough and jagged rocks rising on every side fifty or sixty feet in height. Mr. Hitchcock pronounces this as one of the finest in the State. Another is situated about two miles from Royalston Centre on the Athol road, and is known as Doane's Falls; this has been called the Republican Cascade. The stream descends by several successive leaps about two hundred feet between high walls of gneiss and granite to the valley below. The third is where a small pond near the meeting-house empties itself into a deep valley. The geological structure is calcareous gneiss, in which occur specimens of allanite, ilmenite, mica, and hornblende slate. Large crystals of feldspar are found. A large number of specimens in the State collection are from this locality. Of that beautiful mineral gem, the beryl, Royalston furnishes the finest and most numerous specimens yet discovered in the United States. Prof. Hitchcock describes it as follows: "The recent discovery of a rich locality of this mineral in South Royalston enables me to place it as the first and most abundant of all the gems of Massachusetts. The specimens in the State Collection exhibit it in its natural state, as well as cut and polished by the lapidary. When set in gold, it is often much richer in appearance than the common beryl that goes by the name of *aqua-marine*. Its color often approaches nearer to the genuine emerald, though some specimens have the peculiar blue color of *aqua-marine*. Sometimes, though rarely, the color is a yellowish-green, very much like the chrysolite. Hundreds of specimens have already been obtained from this spot, and the prospect is that a vast many more may be obtained. They occur in a vein of coarse granite, ten or twelve feet wide, traversing gneiss; and the purest beryls are in the quartz. It, however, ought to be remarked, that only a few of the specimens are free enough from fissures to be advantageously cut. Yet, considering the large number of fine cabinet specimens that have been, and probably can be, obtained there, I apprehend that no locality of beryl hitherto discovered in this country can compare with this. My attention was first directed to it by Alden Spooner, Esq., of Athol, who generously furnished me with several fine specimens." Since the time mentioned by Mr. Hitchcock large numbers have been taken from this place.

Of the occupants of these hills and valleys prior to the advent of the white man, little is known. Ex-Gov. Bullock says in his Centennial address, "a pre-



cinct that bears no vestiges of the aborigines, and is in this respect so unlike the more southerly towns, which had half a century of life crowded with Indian traditions, that I cannot find that those original lords ever lighted a pipe or a fire here." But if it was wanting in the dusky sons of the forest, it was not without its share of the wild animals: for bears and wolves crossed the paths of the early settlers by day, and bore away their domestic animals from the folds at night; while many are the anecdotes related of stirring adventures with these denizens of the forest, and the howling of the wolves, with the nightly concerts of wild-cats and panthers around the cabins and campfires of the early settlers made vocal the watches of the night.

When the eventful years of the Revolution drew near, it found the spirit of liberty brightly burning among the sturdy yeomanry of Royalston; and although with a population of less than seven hundred and a large proportion of the territory covered with the original forests, yet it did not spare money or men, but was ready to respond to every call. As early as 1773, the citizens of Royalston put themselves in correspondence with the Central Committee in Boston, and to this they also added a Committee of Safety in 1776. Henry Bond was sent as delegate to the First Provincial Congress in 1774, and Nathan Green to the Second in 1775. The doings of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia were frequently read and approved in open meeting here.

In 1778 ninety pounds was raised for bounties, and the selectmen were instructed to collect clothing and ammunition for the soldiers. In 1779 no family of its own soldiers was found to be needy, and so forty-two pounds was voted to each of its citizens engaged in the service two years before, while in 1781 we find them raising more than a thousand pounds in Spanish milled dollars for the hiring of soldiers, and voting in addition, to each man in the field at the end of three years, "ten cows — heifers, three years old, with calf, or with calves by their side."

The list of Revolutionary soldiers, as far as known, embraces forty-three names, in addition to which a large company of Royalston men marched to repel the Northern Army of Burgoyne in 1777. The following are the names of the Revolutionary soldiers: — Nathan Green, Col. Ebenezer Newel, Major John Norton, Capt. Jonathan Sibley, Capt. Enoch Whitmore, Lieut. Edward Holman, Lieut. Nathan Wheeler, Lieut. Jonas Allen, Lieut. James Work, Lieut. Micah French, David Copeland, Ammi Falkner, John Davis, Jr., Squier Davis, Sylvester Davis, John Ellis, Nathan Bliss, Eliphalet Richardson, Abijah Richardson, David Bullock, Silas Cutting, Bezaleal Barton, Samuel Barton, Moses Walker, Joel Stockwell, Ebenezer Burbank, Benjamin Clark, — Perham, Josiah Waite, Nathan B. Newton, Joseph Emerson, Samuel W. Bowker, Samuel Lewis, Jonathan Wellington, Rogers Chase, Benjamin Leathe Isaac Nichols, William Clement, 2d, Nathaniel Jacobs, Benajah Woodbury, David Cook, William Clement, Jonathan Gale, Timothy Armstrong. Shays' Rebellion received but little if any support from the farmers of Royalston.



Although strongly Federal in politics and strongly opposed to the national policy which brought on the Second War with Great Britain in 1812, yet, when the war came, the citizens of Royalston were ready to bear their part in the responsibilities, and we find them, while the naval forces of England were threatening our seacoast, sending a large company of grenadiers to Boston for coast defence, where they served for thirty-five days.

In 1764, only two years after the first families moved into town, the first meeting-house was built, and for three years after the incorporation of the town several clergymen were employed who were hired for a few Sabbaths at a time. Oct. 13, 1766, the first church was organized, consisting of sixteen persons, and in April, 1768, the town extended a call to the Rev. Joseph Lee, who accepted, and was ordained Oct. 19, 1768, as the first minister of the town, a position which he held for half a century. He was offered for his settlement four hundred pounds, "old tenor," in addition to the two hundred and thirty-one acres granted by the proprietors for the first settled minister, and in lawful money a salary of £46 13s. 4d. per annum for the first three years; £53 6s. 8d. for the next three years; and £60 each year thereafter, and thirty cords of wood, to be drawn annually from his own land to his door.

Mr. Lee was born in Concord, May 23, 1742, and graduated at Harvard College in 1765. He preached to the people of Royalston for fifty years, his half-century sermon being his last.

Mr. Lee was succeeded by Rev. Ebenezer Perkins, who was ordained Feb. 17, 1819. Mr. Perkins was born in Topsfield, July 4, 1794, and graduated at Dartmouth College. He continued as pastor for twenty-eight years, when he was dismissed, but continued to reside in town until his death, Nov. 28, 1861, loved and respected by all. The third minister was Rev. Norman Hazen, a graduate of Dartmouth College. He was settled in June, 1847; his ministry, which was short, terminated at his death, in 1852. He was followed by Rev. Ebenezer Bullard, who was installed Sept. 2, 1852, and dismissed Nov. 9, 1868.

Thus, for the first century of its existence, the church had only four pastors. And it is a remarkable fact that the church was so fortunate as to secure the services of those whose relations with their people were so harmonious through such long pastorates, and to the influences of whom may be largely attributed that freedom from civil and ecclesiastical controversies which has always characterized the town. The pastors since then have been Rev. John P. Cushman, installed Nov. 30, 1870, dismissed Dec. 4, 1872; and Rev. Wilbur Johnson, the present pastor, who was installed May 16, 1874.

The first church, erected in 1764, was removed in 1797 to make room for a more commodious structure, which was destroyed by fire in 1851, when the present church edifice was erected.

The membership of the church is about one hundred and fifty at the present time. The old parsonage, which was the residence of Rev. Mr. Lee, was moved away five years ago, and a fine house has been erected upon the site. The

old house and one acre of land were purchased for one thousand dollars by Miss Candace Bullock, and presented to the society. She also gave six hundred dollars towards the new building. The cost of the new parsonage was five thousand five hundred dollars. Among those who contributed largely for its erection were Mr. and Mrs. Ripley, Mrs. D. P. Clark, Mr. Joseph Estabrook, and Mr. Chauncy Chase. It is overshadowed by a magnificent old elm, set out nearly eighty years ago by the Rev. Joseph Lee.

The first settlers included about ten families of Baptists, forming nearly one-fourth of the population. They organized a church in 1768, and built a house of worship several years later on the west bank of Tully. Their first teacher was Mr. Elisha Rich, who was never ordained. He was succeeded by Rev. Whitman Jacobs, the first minister, in 1770, who continued as their pastor for upwards of eighteen years. Since then they have been served by various pastors; but during the intervals between the pastorates they have rarely, if ever, given up religious service. About 1800, their old meeting-house was left for a larger one erected near the line between Royalston and Warwick, which was dedicated in 1805. The ministers of those days must have been possessed of powerful lungs, if report is true, for it is said that, on the raising of the meeting-house, the prayer of Elder Hodge was heard at the distance of half a mile. This building was removed about the year 1847, nearly a mile east, to a place called "The City," and it is now used by the society.

The Methodists first held preaching in South Royalston about the year 1827, and a church was organized in 1842, with Rev. Pliny Wood as the first preacher. They built a house of worship in 1847, at a cost of two thousand five hundred and fifty dollars, and most of the time since have had preaching.

A second Congregational church was organized at South Royalston, Feb. 22, 1837, and a house of worship was built the same year, at a cost of six thousand four hundred and eighty-one dollars. The first pastor of this church was Rev. Samuel H. Peckham, installed Dec. 13, 1838. Other ministers have been Rev. John H. M. Leland, ordained in 1847; Rev. George Goodyear, installed in 1849; Rev. Edwin Seabury, installed in 1867. Rev. Walter Rice preached several years. The pulpit is now supplied by Rev. C. L. Tomblin. The society was bequeathed two thousand five hundred dollars by the late Rufus Bullock, to be held as a fund, the income of which is to be appropriated for the preaching of the gospel in said society.

A Union Society, composed of Baptists and Universalists, was organized in 1839, and a meeting-house was built in the Centre, the two denominations alternately controlling the services. The property was at length bought by the Baptists, and for some years a church quite large in numbers was kept up. In 1863 the house was sold and moved away.

Royalston was not behind other Massachusetts towns in her care of education. At the first beginning of the town the school was remembered, and, before the purchasers of the territory drew lots for themselves, five hundred



and twenty acres were set apart for school land ; and the Hon. Isaac Royal, by his will, also gave the town two hundred acres more for school purposes. In 1769, only one year after the first minister was settled, and but seven years after the permanent settlement of the town, three pounds was appropriated for schooling. The first schoolmaster of which we have any record was Simeon Chamberlain, who was paid eighteen shillings for two weeks' schooling in 1769. At first, the schools were kept in dwellings and barns. The first school-house was built about the year 1777, when liberty was granted to a number of inhabitants near the Centre to build a school-house near the meeting-house. In 1781, the town was divided into six districts. In 1790 the first school committee was chosen. The town was redistricted in 1795, with nine districts. In 1797 it was voted to build school-houses in the several school districts ; and May 7, 1798, fifteen hundred dollars was appropriated for that object. Besides the amount raised annually by the town for the schools, there is the "Old School Fund," accruing from the sale of the school lands, and the "Bullock Fund," of five thousand dollars, bequeathed to the town by the Hon. Rufus Bullock for the benefit and use of the common schools of the town. There is no regular high school. The schools of South Royalston are partially graded, and consist of a Primary Department and a Grammar School. The school committee for the year 1879-80 consists of A. D. Raymond, R. R. Safford, Mrs. M. A. C. Adams, B. H. Brown, Miss Emma L. Pierce, A. M. White, and Chas. A. Higgins. The list of college graduates who have attained distinction as ministers of the gospel, as teachers, and in the various professions, is indeed remarkable for a town with so small a population. Among this number, natives and others, who have resided in Royalston, are the following: Sidney Holman, class of 1830 (Williams), was born at Royalston in the year 1800. He studied theology at Auburn, N. Y., and has been settled as pastor of churches at Saugus, Willington (Conn.), Webster and Millbury, and acting pastor at Goshen and Windsor. He was married in 1833 to Myra Fisher of Templeton, by whom he had five children, of whom the eldest, Thomas, died in the service of his country in 1862. Stephen Holman, native-born, class of 1839 (Williams), and Rev. Sylvester Davis, native-born, was also a graduate of college. Rev. Amory Gale, born in Royalston, graduated at Brown University, class of 1843. Rev. Ebenezer Cutler, native, graduated at University of Vermont, class of 1845. Franklin Jones, class of 1829 (Amherst) ; Alexander Hamilton Bullock, 1836 ; Rev. Jesse K. Bragg, 1838 ; Ariel Eben, Parish Perkins, 1840 ; Leonard Lorenzo Leathe, 1843 ; Rev. Henry Cummings, 1847 ; Henry Martyn Harrington, 1860 ; Charles Goddard Goodell Paine, 1861 ; and Rev. Albert Bryant, 1862 — all graduated at Amherst College and were born in Royalston. Prof. Nelson Wheeler, class of 1836 (Yale) ; Caleb Buffum Metcalf, 1842 ; George Brigham Newton, 1843 ; and Samuel Chester Gale, 1854, — were native-born and graduated at Yale College. George Newton, class of 1808 (Dartmouth College), was



born in Royalston, Jan. 16, 1785, son of Nathan Brigham and Mary (Stewart) Newton; died, June 6, 1817, aged 32, lawyer; began practice at Salem, removed to Royalston in 1816. Rev. Ebenezer Perkins, class of 1814 (D. C.); born at Topsfield July 4, 1794; died at Royalston, Nov. 28, 1861, aged 67; studied divinity with Rev. Dr. Elisha Parish of Byfield, and at Andover Theological Seminary; ordained pastor of Congregational Church at Royalston, Feb. 17, 1819, and dismissed May 19, 1846, but remained in the town. His only publication was a dedicatory sermon. Married Amelia, daughter of Rev. Ariel Parish (D. C., 1788), at Manchester, June 8, 1819. Benjamin Conant Perkins (D. C., 1848), was his son. Rev. Norman Hazen, class of 1840 (D. C.), born at Hartford, Vt., Sept. 7, 1814, died at Royalston, Feb. 13, 1852, aged 37, graduated from Andover Theological Seminary, 1844; ordained pastor of Congregational Church at Royalston, March 24, 1847, and died while in his official position. Hosea Davis, class of 1842 (D. C.), born at Royalston, June 21, 1817; son of Asa and Deborah (Mason) Davis; studied medicine, and practiced near Indianapolis, Ind.; married (1) Maria Cynthia Marks of Greenbush, Ill.; (2) Abby Stevens of Petersham. Benjamin Conant Perkins, class of 1848 (D. C.); born at Royalston, Jan. 23, 1827; read law at Harvard University Law School, and with Hon. Asabel Huntington of Salem, and Rufus Choate (D. C., 1819) of Boston; began practice at Danvers. Leander Smith graduated from the medical department of Dartmouth in 1834. Rev. Samuel Bacheller, class of 1731, Harvard University; born at Reading; resided at Haverhill; died at Royalston, April, 1796, aged 90 years; ordained minister. Rev. Joseph Lee, class of 1765 (H. U.); born May 23, 1742, at Concord; lived in Royalston; died in Royalston, Feb. 16, 1819, aged 77; ordained minister; received degrees of A. B. and A. M. at both Harvard and Yale. Rev. Samuel Barrett, A.M., S.T.D. (1847), class of 1818 (H. U.); born at Royalston, Aug. 16, 1795; lived, and ordained minister at Boston (Twelfth Congregational Church), Feb. 9, 1825; died at Roxbury, June 24, 1866, aged 70; son of Benjamin and Betsey (Gerrish) Barrett; Sept. 11, 1832, married Mary Susan Greenwood. Benjamin Shattuck Howe Brown, class of 1850 (H. U.); born at Royalston, Sept. 6, 1828; died at South Boylston, March 5, 1851; son of Artemas Howe and Catharine (Howe) Brown. Charles Augustus Gregory, class of 1855 (H. U.); born at Royalston, Sept. 7, 1833; son of Franklin and Martha Porter (Edwards) Gregory; Dec. 4, 1861, married Julia A. Booth of New York. Arthur Clarence Brown, class of 1879 (H. U.), born in Royalston, May 11, 1857; son of Elisha F. and Angeline A. (French) Brown; lives in Athol; intends to read law. The author is indebted to "Sketches of the Alumni of Dartmouth College, by Rev. George T. Chapman, D.D.," and "Sibley's MSS., by John Langdon Sibley," former librarian of Harvard University, for most facts and statistics given above of graduates of Dartmouth College and Harvard University.

## CHAPTER II.

## MOVEMENTS IN THE REBELLION — MEMORIAL TABLETS — WORTHIES OF THE TOWN — AGRICULTURE — MANUFACTURES — PROMINENT BUSINESS MEN.

WHEN Rebellion lifted its hand against the flag and struck its heavy blows for the dissolution of the Union, the people of Royalston, true to the principles of constitutional liberty and union, stood nobly by the government, and, although more largely exhausted of its young men than many other sections of the State, yet the calls of the country were promptly met, and the record of the sons of Royalston on the many fields of battle, is one worthy of the town and State which they represented, and which in the pages of history will be proudly referred to by every citizen of the town. The first action taken by the town was at a town meeting, held April 30, 1861, when, on motion of Capt. John Whitmore, it was voted to raise the sum of \$1,500 for fitting out volunteer soldiers of this town. Also, "voted to pay each volunteer soldier from the town of Royalston, necessary for said town to furnish to form a company with the town of Athol, the sum of ten dollars per month while they are in service, and it is to be paid out of the town treasury, which is to be over and above what they draw from the Government." A committee of three, consisting of Dr. Isaac P. Willis, L. W. Partridge, and Jarvis Davis, Esq., were appointed to canvass the town for soldiers to enlist into the company to be formed by the towns of Royalston and Athol. On motion of Barnet Bullock, Esq., it was "voted that a committee of three persons be chosen by the town, for the purpose of fitting out such soldiers as shall enlist and be called for service from the town of Royalston, by the State or United States, and to draw on the treasury for the expense of a suitable fit-out for each soldier, and that said committee shall take the charge of the State arms, and to be vouchers for the return of said arms, unless taken by the Rebels." Col. George Whitney, Joseph Raymond and L. W. Partridge were chosen as that committee.

*One hundred and ten men* enlisted from this town. Of these, eighteen served in the 21st Regiment, twenty-six in the 25th, twenty-five in the 36th, twenty-six in the 53d, and the remainder in various regiments.

Among the natives of Royalston who have served in the army from other States are Maj.-Gen. Lysander Cutler of Wisconsin, Lieut.-Col. Charles Cummings of Vermont, Capt. Andrew J. Richardson of Wisconsin, Capt. Henry J. Howe of Pennsylvania, and Lieut. Silas Heywood of New Hampshire.

Through the generosity of Mr. Joseph Raymond, a wealthy citizen of Royalston, four memorial tablets of white marble, containing the names of the soldiers from this town who died in the service, have been placed in the Town Hall. These tablets are shield-shaped and contain the following inscriptions:

## "25TH REGT. MASS. VOLS.,

## "Co. I.

*"Died of Wounds.*

"C. W. Norcross, Roanoke Island, N. C., Feb. 21st, 1862, Aged 22 yrs. Geo. Brown, Whitehall, N. C., Dec. 16th, 1862, Aged 41 yrs. Hosea B. Bosworth, Cold Harbor, Va., July 10th, 1864, Aged 32 yrs."

*"Died of Disease.*

"Marcus Walker, Portsmouth, N. C., Jan. 29th, 1863, aged 22 years."

*"Killed in Action.*

"Henry E. Knight, Spottsylvania, Va., May 12th, 1864, aged 20 years."

*"Died in Prison.*

"John S. Chase, Andersonville, Ga., Aug. 11th, 1864, aged 19 years. Joel S. Bosworth, Charleston, S. C., Sept. 24th, 1864, aged 37 years."

## "36TH REGT. MASS VOLS.,

## "Co. D.

*"Died of Disease.*

"A. F. Pierce, Hartford, Va., Nov. 19th, 1862, aged 26 years. Eugene C. King, Nicholsonville, Ky., Aug. 23d, 1863, aged 18 years. Stephen P. White, Annapolis, Md., May 3d, 1864, aged 35 years."

*"Died of Wounds.*

"Sanford Giles, Spottsylvania, Va., May 12th, 1864, aged 37 years. Geo. L. Chase, Wilderness, Va., June 8th, 1864, aged 25 years. Corporal R. N. White, Cold Harbor, Va., June 25th, 1864, aged 20 years."

*"Killed in Action.*

"Sam'l B. Hale, Spottsylvania, Va., May 12th, 1864, aged 31 years. George A. Raymond, Cold Harbor, Va., June 2d, 1864, aged 22 years. John Shepardson, Petersburg, Va., June 17th, 1864, aged 20 years. Henry Russell, Petersburg, Va., Aug. 8th, 1864, aged 17 years."

## "53D REGT. MASS. VOL. MILITIA,

## "Co. E.

*"Died of Disease.*

"Geo. L. Hancock, Carrollton, La., March 8th, 1863, aged 21 years. Corp. Geo. W. Knights, New Orleans, La., Apr. 10th, 1863, aged 23 years. Uri C. Day, Baton Rouge, La., Apr. 14, 1863, aged 19 years. Chas. E. Tenney, New Orleans, La., Apr. 26th, 1863, aged 17 years. Henry C. Morse, New Orleans, La., April 27th, 1863, aged 20 years. John M. Wood, Baton Rouge, La., May 15th, 1863, aged 19 years. Jos. W. Bosworth, Royalston, Mass., July 24th, 1863, aged 19 years."

## "Co. F.

"Quincy A. Shepardson, Baton Rouge, La., July 27th, 1863, aged 37 years."



" MISCELLANEOUS REGIMENTS.

" *Died of Disease.*

" Milton C. Handy, Co. I, 4th Vt. Reg't, Feb. 17th, 1862, aged 18 years. Corp. W. H. Sprague, Co. B, 27th Mass., May 10th, 1862, aged 40 years. Jas. Townsend, Co. A, 32d Reg't, Aug. 2d, 1862, aged 25 years. Jefferson Richardson, Co. F, 16th N. H., Jan. 24th, 1863, aged 36 years."

" *Died of Wounds.*

" Edwin O. Vose, Co. F, 2d Mass., June 25th, 1862, aged 19 years."

" *Killed in Action.*

" Geo. Miles, Co. A, 2d N. H., June 15, 1862, aged 20 years. Geo. E. Fry, Co. E, 5th N. H., May 2d, 1863, aged 27 years. W. D. Goddard, Co. F, 57th Mass., Aug. 10th, 1864, aged 39 years."

The first Representative to the General Court, from this town, was chosen May 27th, 1776, and at the last town meeting warned in his majesty's name. The following have served as representatives from Royalston:—Timothy Richardson, 1776; John Fry, 1780, '83, '84, '85, '87; Peter Woodbury, 1788, '89; Isaac Gregory, 1794, '95, 1801, '03, '06, '07, '08; Jonathan Sibley, 1786; Oliver Work, 1792; Phillip Sweetzer, 1798; John Norton, 1800, '13, '14; Joseph Estabrook, 1809, '10, '11, '12, '15, '16, '17, '25; Rufus Bullock, 1820, '21, '27, '28, '29; Squier Davis, 1823; Stephen Bacheller, Jr., 1826, '30; Franklin Gregory, 1831, '33; Benjamin Brown, 1832, '45; Asabel Davis, 1834; Arba Sherwin, 1835, '37, '39; Russell Morse, 1835, '36, '39; Benoni Peck, 1836, '37; Salmon Goddard, 1838; Benjamin Fry, 1838, '40, '54; Cyrus Davis, 1840; Hiram W. Albee, 1843, '46, '52, '53; Barnet Bullock, 1844; Silas Kenney, 1848; Elmer Newton, 1849; Joseph Raymond, 1850, '51; Tarrant Cutler, 1855; Jarvis Davis, 1856; Joseph Estabrook, 1857; George Whitney, 1859; Elisha F. Brown, 1861; Ebenezer W. Bullard, 1864; William W. Clement, 1866; Jeremiah A. Rich, 1868, '74; Benjamin H. Brown, 1870; Joseph Walker, 1877. Senators: Joseph Estabrook, 1828; Rufus Bullock, 1831-32; George Whitney, 1863-64. Constitutional Convention, 1779, '80: Sylvanus Hemenway, delegate, and John Fry, his substitute. Rufus Bullock, delegate to Constitutional Conventions of 1820 and 1853; John Fry, delegate at the ratification of the Constitution of the United States, 1788. The Town Clerks of Royalston, from its incorporation to the present time, are as follows:—John Fry, from 1765 to 1782, with the exception of 1773; Stephen Bacheller, 1773; Peter Woodbury, 1782 to 1790, and for 1791 and 1794; John Bacheller, 1790, '92, and '93; Daniel Woodbury, 1795, '96; Isaac Gregory, 1797, '98, '99, 1800, 1806; Samuel Goddard, Jr., 1801, 1802; Joseph Estabrook, 1803, '04, '05, '08, '09, '10; Stephen Bacheller, Jr., 1807; John Norton, 1811, '14, '15, '16, '17; Rufus Bullock, 1812, '13; Thomas J. Lee, 1818, '21, '22, '23, '24; Franklin Gregory, 1819, '20, and from 1825 to 1837; Barnet Bullock, 1837 to 1847; George F. Miller, 1847, '48, '49, '51,

'67, '68, '69, '70; Joseph Raymond, 1850, '53; Leander W. Warren, 1852; R. H. Bullock, 54; Charles H. Newton, 1855 to 1867; Joseph T. Nichols, 1871, '72, '73; Joseph Walker, 1874, '75, '76; Frank W. Adams, 1877, '78, '79.

In 1768, the same year that the first minister was settled, Dr. Stephen Bacheller established himself in town as the first physician, where for half a century he practiced his profession. He was succeeded by his son, Stephen Bacheller, Jr., the father and son practicing in town for eighty years. Dr. Stephen Bacheller, Jr., ranked among the most eminent physicians of the State, having probably a more extensive consultation business than any other physician in the county. He is said to have ridden more miles than any other doctor in Worcester County; was a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, for two years its vice-president, and for many years one of its counsellors, and was a delegate from the Society to the American Medical Association at Baltimore. Nearly forty medical students were under his instruction. Other physicians of first-class reputation were Dr. Isaac P. Willis and Dr. Thomas Richardson. It is a singular fact that the central portion of the town started on its second century not only with its fourth minister, but also its fourth physician. Frank W. Adams, M. D., at the Centre and Henry O. Adams, M. D., at South Royalston, now look after the health of the people.

Among the old-time worthies of the town may be mentioned Joseph Estabrook, Esq., who as merchant, first postmaster, first senator, and a gentleman of the old school, occupied a prominent position among his fellow-citizens. Maj. Gen. Franklin Gregory, who excelled in military affairs, was chosen to preside at one of the receptions in honor of Lafayette, and was one of the most enterprising merchants the town ever had; and Jonathan Pierce, who for nearly a quarter of a century brought the mail once a week, as he drove the post between Worcester and Keene through Royalston. His son, Horace Pierce, Esq., was at one time largely engaged in the manufacture of pails in the north part of the town.

As an agricultural town Royalston bears a good reputation, and the large, substantial, and well-kept farm-houses and barns testify that the soil of these hills amply repays the industrious farmer for his labors. Like so many of the hill towns of Massachusetts, the sons and daughters of Royalston have been leaving the homes of their fathers, and seeking amid more exciting scenes a name and fortune. Yet the drain from this town has not been so large as from many of our towns, as the census of the various dates will show: Population, 1776, 617; 1790, 1,130; 1800, 1,243; 1810, 1,415; 1820, 1,424; 1830, 1,493; 1840, 1,667; 1850, 1,546; 1855, 1,469; 1860, 1,486; 1865, 1,441; 1870, 1,354; 1875, 1,260. The census report of 1875 gives the following statistics of the agriculture of the town. Number of farms, 172, valued at \$506,000; domestic animals valued at \$57,968. The products of agriculture amounted to \$94,792. There were 2,512 tons of hay produced. The number of horses was 224, cows 410, and sheep 176.



A very creditable cattle-show, surpassing in many respects some of the county fairs, was held by the farmers of the town the present season.

The hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town was celebrated Aug. 23, 1865, when the address was delivered by Royalston's honored son, Hon. Alexander H. Bullock. The poet of the day was Albert Bryant, A. M.; and Mrs. George Woodbury contributed an original hymn for the occasion.

A fine town house was built in 1867, at a cost of about \$9,000. It contains a large hall, a public library, and rooms for town officers. The hall is adorned by three fine portraits, of Hon. Rufus Bullock, ex-Gov. A. H. Bullock, and Rev. Ebenezer Perkins, second pastor of the Congregational Church. Daniel Parkhurst Clark came to Royalston as a clerk in the store of Gen. Franklin Gregory, where he remained for ten or twelve years. He afterwards went to New York, where he engaged in business, and amassed a large fortune. After his death Mrs. Clark came to Royalston, the home of her childhood; and about seven years ago she, in connection with Mr. Joseph Estabrook, built an elegant residence, where she now resides. Mrs. Clark is a generous contributor to the Congregational Church, and to every worthy object connected with the welfare of the town.

Royalston has the honor, not only of furnishing a Governor for her own State, but of supplying the neighboring State of Vermont with one; the Hon. Asahel Peck, Governor of Vermont from 1874 to 1876, being a native of the town.

South Royalston is a flourishing village on Miller's River in the south-east part of the town, where most of the manufacturing establishments are located. It has two churches, hotel, two stores, Mechanics' Hall, and a depot on the Vermont and Massachusetts division of the Fitchburg Railroad.

Among the manufacturers of Royalston, Salmon S. Farrar occupies a prominent place. Born in Winchendon, he came, a poor boy, in 1832, to what was then called Royalston Factory Village. At first he worked by the day for J. M. Upham, then commenced the manufacture of shoe-pegs with Leonard Wheeler. The business being new and customers few, they soon disposed of it. In 1836, he built the shop now standing and engaged in the manufacture of "nest" or dry measures, children's rolling-hoops, boxes, sleds, &c. As his business increased, he built additions to his shop, and also a saw-mill. After being closely confined to manufacturing business for more than forty years, he retired from active business with a competency. He has contributed largely to the growth of the village of South Royalston, and has been an active member of the Orthodox Society from its organization. For some years last past he has held important positions of trust; has been officially connected with the Templeton Savings Bank from its incorporation; is also a director of the Athol National Bank; and has been collector of taxes for many years.

Caleb W. Day has been actively engaged in the manufacture of shoe-pegs at South Royalston for nearly twenty years. He succeeded Silas Jones, Jr., who



had been a member of the firm of Bemis (Otis Bemis) & Jones. About twelve years ago he commenced the manufacture of brush-blocks and brush-handles, and now turns out a very extensive variety, adapted to almost every kind of brush, and employs about twelve hands. Mr. Day has always taken a deep interest in the prosperity of the village, and has been an active promoter of the social welfare and intellectual improvement of its citizens. He has used his means and influence to establish and sustain lectures in the village.

Edmund Stockwell of South Royalston is also engaged in the manufacture of brush-blocks and brush-handles and croquet-sets. He has been quite successful and does a safe and sure business.

Dea. Maynard Partridge, an influential citizen, has been engaged for many years in the manufacture of chair-stuff at the old Holman Mill, about one mile north-east of the town house.

Col. George Whitney is one of the most enterprising and successful business men of Worcester County. He has achieved success. He was brought up on a farm and drove a team on the highway for ten years. In 1858, soon after the death of Rufus Bullock, he bought the woolen-mill at South Royalston, although he already owned a chair-shop, and had been engaged in the manufacture of chairs since the year 1848. He thus became the head of two important manufacturing interests. He employs more than one hundred hands in both factories, and, during the past years of depression and widespread "panic," has moved steadily on, keeping the full quota of help in both the mill and chair-shop. Col. Whitney has held the position of depot-agent continuously since the establishment of a depot at South Royalston; has represented his town in the Legislature, both in the House and Senate. He has been a member of the Governor's Council for the years 1873, '74, '75, '76 and '77, five consecutive years, when he declined to stand longer as a candidate for the office. The vote at the election in 1875, to serve in 1876, as recorded in the office of the Secretary of State, is, George Whitney, 24,318; scattering, 7. The vote at the election in 1876, to serve in 1877, recorded as above, is, Geo. Whitney, 33,354, *and no votes against him*. We venture to say that no other public man in the Commonwealth has a like record of unanimity at any election where 30,000 or more ballots have been cast.

In 1857, 72,000 yards of woolen cloth were manufactured, — value, \$72,000; there were 129,000 palm-leaf hats manufactured, — value, \$16,225; value of chairs and cabinet-ware manufactured, \$15,041; there were eleven saw-mills; value of lumber, \$18,165. The value of goods made and work done in 1875 were: chair-stock and lumber, \$7,500; chairs, wood seat, \$20,000; hats, palm-leaf, \$20,000; shoe-pegs, brush handles, croquet-sets, &c., \$16,000; woolen goods, \$150,000; wooden-ware, \$10,300; total manufactures, \$223,850.

A name which will ever be honored by the citizens of Royalston is that of Rufus Bullock. He was the eldest son of Hugh and Rebecca Bullock, and was born in Royalston Sept. 23, 1779, and died in his native town, where he had

always lived, June 10, 1858, aged 78. Although his means were limited, yet he obtained a good education, worked upon the farm and taught school. He afterwards engaged in trade, having a store on the Common. May 4, 1808, he married Miss Davis of Rindge, N. H. He did not engage in manufacturing until he was about forty-five years of age, but during the remainder of his life he devoted himself assiduously to this business and accumulated a very large fortune. It has been truly said of him: "He was a patriot of the early type, — a gentleman of the olden school, — a friend to be trusted, and a man whose principles bore the test of intimate acquaintance and inspection, and whose influence, unobtrusive but potent, has been eminently useful." He held many offices of trust and honor; was one of the trustees of Amherst College, and was the donor of a telescope for the College Observatory; represented the town seven years in the Legislature, — five in the House, two in the Senate; was delegate to the Constitutional Conventions of 1820 and 1853, and was chosen presidential elector. His benevolence was proverbial, and in his will he left many bequests to most noble and worthy objects. When he died the whole town was in mourning for the loss of the beloved, honored, and most distinguished son of Royalston. The old homestead of the Bullock family is now occupied by Mrs. Emily Bullock Ripley, daughter of Rufus Bullock, and Constance Bullock, her aunt. Mrs. Ripley gave the organ to the Congregational Church.

Hon. Alexander Hamilton Bullock is the illustrious son of Rufus Bullock; graduated at Amherst College, class of 1836, and was admitted to the bar in 1841, — a man of learning, distinguished in *belles lettres*, an orator and statesman. The people of the city of Worcester, of the county, and of the whole Commonwealth have been delighted to shower honors and offices of trust upon him. He was a member of the House of Representatives for the years 1845, 1847, 1848, and 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, and 1865; Speaker of the House for 1862, 1863, 1864, and 1865; member of the Senate, 1849; judge of the Court of Insolvency for Worcester County, 1856, 1857, and 1858; mayor of Worcester, 1859, and governor of the "Old Bay State" for the years 1866, 1867, and 1868.

*Town Officers for 1879.* — Joseph T. Nichols, Caleb W. Day, Asaph M. White, *Selectmen and Assessors.*

*Treasurer,* Joseph Walker; *Clerk,* Frank W. Adams.

The author is indebted to Royalston "Memorial" for many facts of historical interest. He also extends thanks to Miss Emma L. Pierce, Mrs. Charlotte B. Pierce, Hon. George Whitney, Mr. Caleb W. Day, and Dr. Frank W. Adams of Royalston; Mr. Caleb A. Cook and L. B. Caswell, B. S., of Athol, for aid in the preparation of this history. To all others who have taken an interest in the work, he is grateful.

## R U T L A N D.

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BY J. WARREN BIGELOW, ESQ.

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## CHAPTER I.

NAME OF THE TOWN — ANCIENT PURCHASE — FIRST SETTLERS — INDIAN OUTRAGES — INCORPORATION — PHYSICAL FEATURES — CLIMATE — SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENTS — POPULATION.

THIS town was named after Rutland, in England, in honor of the Duke of Rutland. The word "Rutland" is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words "rud, rut" (variously spelt), red and land; so called from the redness of the soil; this was so marked that it colored the wool of the sheep. Rutland appears in the Latin poetic history of England, A.D. 500.

Dec. 22, 1686, Puagastion of Pennicook; Pompamamay, Sassawannow, Qualipunit of Natic; Wananapan of Wamassick (Indians who claimed to be lords of the soil), gave and executed a deed to Henry Willard, Joseph Rowlandson, Joseph Foster, Benjamin Willard, and Cyprian Stevens, for £23 of the currency of that time, a certain tract of land twelve miles square (the Indian name being Naquag), according to the following bounds, viz. : —

"Commencing at Muscopauge Pond the South corner, and running North to Quantick and to Wanchatopick, and thence upon Wachusett, which is the North corner: running Northwest to Wallamanumpscook, and to Quapuanimawick, and to Asnaconmick Pond which is the Northwest corner; and running South to Musshauge a great swamp, and to Sassakataffick the South corner, and thence running East to Pascaticquage and to Ahumpatunshauge Pond and thence to Sumpauge Pond, and to Muscopauge which is in the East corner."

This Indian deed was signed and acknowledged by the above-named Indians, and recorded in the county of Middlesex, April 14, 1714. The above tract is about one-eighth part of the county of Worcester, comprising what now is Rutland, Oakham, Barre, Hubbardston, the greater part of Princeton, and about one-half of Paxton. The proprietors of this grant of land, at a meeting in Boston, Dec. 14, 1715, voted that the contents of six miles square be surveyed and set off for the settlement of sixty-two families. This was granted to men



who would go on and settle that part which is now called Rutland. Thomas How, Stephen Minot, Thomas Smith, Estes Hatch, Jacob Stevens, Ephraim Wilder, and Samuel Wright were appointed as a committee to transact the concerns of the proprietors, and to see that justice and equity was done to the settlers. This committee surveyed this tract, which was bounded on Worcester, S.  $34^{\circ}$ , W. 2 miles, 191 rods, thence S.  $12^{\circ}$ , E. 3 miles, 293 rods; Leicester, N.  $7^{\circ}$ , W. 5 miles, 50 rods; West Wing, N.  $11^{\circ}$ , W. 6 miles, 283 rods on the country, N.  $30^{\circ}$ , E. 4 miles, 183 rods; East Wing, S.  $39^{\circ}$ , E. 5 miles, 114 rods. This survey includes the one half of Paxton. In 1716, sixty-two house-lots were surveyed and numbered. The young settlers joined in companies, swung their packs, shouldered their guns, with their axes and provisions on their backs, or on a pack-horse, marched through the woods over hills and valleys to what are now the pleasant hills of Rutland. Then each in his own lot began to fell trees, and to erect a log-hut. Their food was wild game, or such as they carried from their homes; their drink was from the fountain; their lodging in their blankets. The next season they resumed the felling of trees, and gathered their grain; some put up huts, and a few wintered in the woody settlement, the others returned to their friends. The next spring, the clearing of the land is resumed; they have materials for making bread, and vegetables of their own raising; they commenced moving their families, and on Sept. 23, 1719, the first child was born to Moses and Eunice How in Rutland, for which fortunate event this child had one hundred acres of land given to him.

So rapid was the settlement of Rutland, that in four years after its commencement (1716), they numbered fifty families. June 7, 1720, they selected a place for a church. In this and the succeeding year, it was so far completed as to become a sanctuary for public worship. A committee of the grand proprietors of the town laid out, surveyed and granted a road or street running through the centre of the town one and a half miles in length, and ten rods wide. In 1743, it was voted that it be granted and confirmed to the town of Rutland as a common for public use, benefit and behoof forever, without any manner of alienation or appropriation.

The first settlers of Rutland were principally from Boston, Lexington, Concord, Sudbury, Marlborough, Framingham, Lancaster, Brookfield, and emigrants from Ireland. They were persons of courage, enterprise and intelligence, possessing something of the spirit of the Pilgrims, — left their native towns and bade farewell to friends and home to settle in a howling wilderness, exposed to the cruel Indians and wild beasts, the nearest settled towns being Leicester and Worcester. In 1721, Rev. Joseph Willard was invited and accepted the invitation to settle with the people of Rutland as their pastor. He met with many discouragements, principally arising from the fears and dangers of the Indians, so that an appointment of his installation was deferred until the fall of 1723; but his life was not spared, being cut off by the enemy,

as will now be related. As Dea. Joseph Stevens and four of his sons were making hay in a meadow at Rutland, a short distance north of the place where the church now stands, Aug. 14, 1723, they were surprised by five Indians. The father escaped in the bushes; two of his sons were then and there slain, the other two (Phineas the eldest, and Isaac the youngest) were made prisoners. Two of the five Indians waylaid Mr. Davis and son, who that afternoon were making hay in a meadow not far distant, but, weary of waiting, they were returning to the others, and met Mr. Willard, who was armed. One of the Indians' guns missed fire, the other did no execution. Mr. Willard returned the fire, and mortally wounded one of them; the other attacked Mr. Willard, but he would have been more than a match for him, had not the other three come to his assistance. The Indians having killed and scalped Mr. Willard, and taken some of his clothes, left for Canada with the two captives above named. This account Phineas Stevens, who was a witness of the tragedy, gave on his return from captivity. Aug. 3, 1724, the Indians came again to Rutland, killed three persons, wounded one, and made another prisoner. This was the last time Rutland was molested by the red man, as far as we have been able to learn.

The six miles square being given to the settlers, a petition was presented to the General Court, and they, sometime in their session (which was begun at Boston on Wednesday, May 30, 1722), passed an act of incorporation, entitled, —

“AN ACT for further establishing the town of Rutland, and authorizing them to choose town officers, raise and collect money for defraying the necessary charges of said town.

“*Be it enacted by His Excellency the Governor, the Council, and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same:*

“That the inhabitants and freeholders of Rutland be invested with, and forever hereafter enjoy all the powers, privileges and immunities which other towns have and enjoy: and that they be enabled to levy, assess and collect three pence per acre annually for the space of two and one-half years from July 1, 1721, on all lands whether divided or undivided, contained within the lines of the six miles square, on which the present inhabitants have settled: and that the said land be subjected and made liable to the payment of the same, to defray the expense of building the Meeting-house, and compensating the minister for his salary.”

In consequence of the above act, an order of the General Court was passed July 6, 1722, authorizing Capt. Samuel Wright to call a meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of Rutland on the last Monday of July current, to choose town officers to serve until the meeting of March next.

The town was notified, and met accordingly, and this was the first legal town meeting held in Rutland. The principal officers chosen were:—Moderator, Capt. Samuel Wright; town clerk, Capt. Samuel Wright; selectmen, Capt. Samuel Wright, Ens. Joseph Stevens, Lieut. Simon Davis; assessors,



Capt. Samuel Wright, Ens. Joseph Stevens, Daniel Howe; town treasurer, Ens. Joseph Stevens.

This town occupies the central part of Worcester County. It is situated on the height of land fifty miles west of Boston, forty east of the Connecticut River, twelve north-west of Worcester, and an equal distance from New Hampshire on the north, Connecticut on the south, and, at the centre of the town, 1,250 feet above the level of the ocean at Boston. The present boundaries may be thus stated: North-east by Princeton; east and south-east by Holden; south by Paxton; south-west by Oakham; and north-west by Barre and Hubbardston.

It is well diversified with hills, valleys, plains, streams, ponds, and some mineral springs. The soil is of several varieties, from the rich loam to the dry, barren sand; yet there is still but little of the latter description which will not repay the industrious farmer for his labor. It is a good grazing township. The growth of wood is of many kinds (from one of the largest and most beautiful elm-trees in the State to the humble shrub), such as oak, chestnut, hemlock, pine, birch, beech, ash and maple; these are found in many varieties. The east branch of the Ware River is the only stream running through the town. It has its source on the west side of Wachusett Mountain. It enters the north-east part, taking a circuitous course, receiving several tributaries, running over five miles in the town, falling one hundred feet, and leaving at the north-west corner of the town. The principal brooks are: Pomagusset, which is composed of the waters from the meadows and swamps near Princeton, runs west through Pomagusset Meadow, and empties into Ware River. Mill Brook derived its name from having the first mills in Rutland carried by its power. It has its source from one of the two springs that rise near each other one-half mile east of the church. The waters of several other springs west of Muschopauge Hill unite with this, and form a stream on which considerable business was carried on. Its course is westerly through the meeting-house meadow, and flows into Long Meadow Brook. Davis' Brook has its source at or near the same spring as Mill Brook. These two are a curiosity, as one unites with the Connecticut, and the other with the Merrimac River. The summit of the uncompleted Massachusetts Central Railroad, running from Boston to Northampton, one-half mile north of the centre of the town, is near these springs. Long Meadow Brook receives its waters from Long Pond, empties into Ware River. Buck Brook is the outlet of Demond Pond, and unites with Long Meadow Brook. About one-half a mile south-east of the meeting-house is a spring, flowing from the waters which soon divide; part run to the Merrimac and part to the Connecticut River. Muschopauge Pond is the starting and closing point of the Indian deed. It covers about one hundred acres, is fed by springs. Its water is pure and deep, and it is a reservoir for mills. Demond Pond has the same properties as Muschopauge, contains about seventy acres. Long Pond is about a mile in length; but it is narrow,



resembles a large river, and is fed by springs. Its waters are deep; it is a reservoir, and affords good water-power. These ponds furnish a variety of fish.

The centre of the town is situated upon a hill, from which we have a fine view of all the adjoining towns, Mount Wachusett, and Monadnock Mountain in New Hampshire. Muschopauge Hill is the most elevated land in the town. Joyner's Hill, one mile north of the church, presents a fine appearance as you pass through the centre of the town. There are many other hills which afford from their summits a beautiful prospect. Most of our meadows, when first cleared, produced abundant crops. It is evident that some were partially cleared by the natives or the beavers, and produced grass before the white people settled here. This aided the first settlers in furnishing food for their stock during the first years.

Rutland has a healthful climate. The winters are cold and bleak, but the summers cool and delightful. It is a favorite resort for city boarders, being unequal to Princeton only in hotels and boarding-houses.

The General Court and proprietors made some provisions for schools in their grant to the settlers of the six miles square. It was one of the conditions of the grant that one sixty-third part of the lands should be set off and appropriated for school purposes. Accordingly the lot numbering 63 was set apart for that object. What was called the House Lot of thirty acres was situated on a hill one mile west of the meeting-house. The division of one hundred and fifty acres was laid out and located partly by the House Lot, and partly by the East Wing. In 1744, the school lands were, by vote of the town, sold for £156 4s. 10d., and put on interest.

For the first twenty years after the grant the privileges for an education were limited, there being no school houses; it was dangerous for children to go from house to house, not only on account of the Indians, but of the voracious bears and wolves. Mothers when sitting at their doors with their children, could see the wild beasts pass with their young. In October, 1733, the town voted to provide a teacher before the court in November, and chose the following School Committee: Capt. John Hubbard, Eleazer Ball and Dunkin McFarland. At the same time voted to have the school kept two-thirds of the time in the centre of the town, at Col. Hatch's house, and one-third at the West Wing, by the pond. This was taught by Mr. Whitaker, and was the first public school in Rutland. In 1734 the town voted that two school-houses be erected at the town's expense; one near the church, the other south-west of Cedar Swamp Pond. In 1735 the town engaged Mr. William Brintnal as teacher for one year; he taught three terms in three different places.

Until 1781 the centre district extended from Holden line to the bounds of Oakham, in which, for several years before the Revolution, there was a Latin grammar school taught during the year; to encourage the same Col. Murray gave twenty dollars annually.

During the Revolutionary war education was somewhat neglected. But it is evident that Rutland has not been wanting in disposition or ability to educate her children and youth.

The following table shows when each school district was formed; where located, and number of inhabitants, male and female in each, in 1828:—

NO.	FORMED.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.	LOCATION.
Centre.	Oct., 1734	102	100	202	By the Common.
1	Sept., 1781	74	76	150	East of Sewell Farm.
2	May, 1768	40	35	75	West of School Lot.
3	May, 1761	60	62	122	By Harwood Brook.
4	Aug., 1781	76	54	130	Pound Hill.
5	May, 1768	50	61	111	By Irish Lane.
6	May, 1764	61	65	126	Dublin.
7	Aug., 1781	71	78	149	Barracks.
8	May, 1769	97	77	174	By Ware River.
Total, . .		634	608	1,242	

Population of the town at different periods of its history: In 1790, 1,072; in 1820, 1,276; in 1865, 1,011; 1875, 1,030.

## CHAPTER II.

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS — REVOLUTIONARY WAR — ALARM MEN — BURGOTNE'S ENCAMPMENT — RUTLAND IN THE REBELLION — AGRICULTURE — MANUFACTURES — PUBLIC LIBRARY — PUBLIC MEN — A REMINISCENCE OF CRIME.

In the very beginning of the settlement of the town, the inhabitants of Rutland took active measures to secure to themselves gospel privileges. The first act which is recorded was June 7, 1720, when a committee of the proprietors held a meeting to request the settlers to decide where to locate the meeting-house. It was subsequently voted to build a house forty-one and a half feet by thirty, and locate it opposite the cemetery. In the following year, and only sixteen days after the six miles square was conveyed by the proprietors to the settlers, "as a sure inheritance to them forever," the Rev. Joseph Willard was selected by a majority of the voters. The invitation was accepted by Mr. W., but he never was installed, for the reason previously given. During the intervening time of nearly five years, several persons preached to the inhabitants, and it was not until 1727 that another minister was chosen. On the 17th of May, of that year, the inhabitants of Rutland held a meeting "to choose and call an able and learned orthodox and pious person to dispense the word of God unto them."

At that time Mr. Thomas Frink was unanimously chosen and accepted the call. Nov. 1, 1727, he was ordained as their pastor. Shortly after Mr. Frink was settled, a strong Presbyterian element was manifested. About two-fifths of his members withdrew and erected a church at the West Wing, which was afterward the church building in Oakham, until the present one in use took its place.

This act caused Mr. Frink to tender his resignation, which was accepted by the town Sept. 8, 1740. He graduated at Harvard University in 1722, and was "a learned divine." The second ordained minister was Mr. Joseph Buckminster, who was settled Sept. 15, 1742. It was during his pastorate in 1759, that the second church was erected. It was in size sixty by fifty feet, and was considered "a large and well finished house for so young a society."

Mr. Buckminster had an able and successful ministry of more than fifty years, when it was terminated by death Nov. 3, 1792, at the age of seventy-three. It is recorded that the town and church were so well united at the close of Mr. Buckminster's ministry and life, that every person in town, who paid any taxes, paid a part of his salary. "He was distinguished for intellectual ability, ministerial fidelity and zeal." He was born at Framingham and graduated at Harvard University in 1739. The next year Mr. Hezekiah Goodrich was ordained as the third minister and continued until his death, which occurred Feb. 7, 1812.

Mr. Luke B. Foster very soon succeeded Mr. Goodrich. His ministry was cut short after a duration of four years, by an early death. He died May 23, 1817, at the age of twenty-eight. In less than a year the church invited Mr. Josiah Clark to settle here; he was ordained June 2, 1818. Mr. C. was born at Northampton and graduated at Williams College. His ministry continued twenty-seven years, when he died July 11, 1845, aged sixty. His labors were blessed with rich success, and by his faithfulness and affection, he endeared himself to his people. He was valued as a preacher, beloved as a pastor, and prized as a friend. And even now, in the eminence of his piety and ability, he lives in the memory of the people, as one superior in social sympathies and official labors.

The church building has been twice destroyed by fire, the first time on Feb. 28, 1830, the second Jan. 7, 1849.

The society and church showed once more a commendable energy and perseverance (notwithstanding their misfortune), by erecting a building more commodious in size and agreeable in architecture than any of the former ones. It was completed at a cost of \$8,000.

The remaining pastors are: Rev. Daniel R. Cady, ordained Oct. 29, 1845, dismissed Oct. 11, 1849. Rev. George E. Fisher, ordained Feb. 27, 1850, dismissed May 13, 1852. Rev. David Burt, installed Jan. 10, 1856, dismissed Feb. 25, 1858. Rev. Clarendon Waite, ordained Feb. 25, 1858, dismissed Mar. 13, 1866. Rev. Henry Cummings, installed Sept. 5, 1866, dismissed July 1, 1874. Rev. George E. Dodge, installed Dec. 27, 1877.



Though there have been long intervals when the society has been destitute of a settled minister, yet there have been but few Sabbaths since the organization of the church, in which there have been no religious services.

About 1840 the Methodists began to hold meetings. A society was formed, and in 1844 they built a house of worship. The society for several years prospered. In time many of its most wealthy members died or left town, and those remaining feeling unable or unwilling to support preaching, allowed the society to expire. The house some years since passed into private hands.

The Adventists have an established church and society at North Rutland, where they have regular preaching in the chapel built by this society in 1874.

It could not have been anticipated that Rutland would take that united and decisive stand that she did at the commencement of the Revolution, for her minister was not very zealous in taking up arms against the mother country, and Col. Murray, who was friendly with the present rulers, was a man in whom a majority of the people had put implicit confidence; yet Rutland, almost to a man, united in defending her civil and religious rights and privileges.

In 1765 the town instructed her representative, Col. Murray, "to use his best endeavors in the General Assembly to have the rights and privileges of this province vindicated and preserved to us and our posterity." The Stamp Act was repealed. The people were so rejoiced that they raised a liberty-pole, and set apart a day for feasting and gladness. Furthermore, they were so patriotic that on March 6, 1775, they voted that all the militia, from sixteen years of age and upwards, be required to meet on the 13th inst., to form themselves into a company, and choose their officers to command and discipline them, and each was to be provided with arms and ammunition. David Bent was chosen captain, whose commission was "*honor and patriotism.*" At this time they drew up and signed a solemn and patriotic obligation, of which the following is the last clause:—

"And as the law of self-preservation requires us at this time, to prepare ourselves for repelling, force by force, in case we should be reduced to such fatal necessity: *Therefore* we do hereby firmly covenant, and engage with each other, under the sacred ties of Honor, Virtue and Love of our country, that we will endeavor forthwith to be equipped with arms, ammunition and accoutrements, according to the Province Law, with this addition, that each soldier shall have thirty bullets, instead of twenty. And furthermore, that we will each of us respectfully adhere, obey and conform to all military orders."

Although the mortal sickness of 1749 and 1756 swept off about eighty of our children and youth, yet Rutland had a goodly number of heroic young men to face the enemy at the commencement of the Revolutionary War.

In 1775 forty-eight of the most active and patriotic were selected, armed and equipped, to be ready for action at a minute's warning. Thomas Eustis was chosen captain, John Stone, lieutenant, William Bridge, ensign. When called they marched; many of them engaged in the first eight months' service, and

were at the memorable battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775. Benjamin Reed and Maj. Willard Moore were among the number slain.

In 1777 this town's quota of men to be raised for three years, or during the war, was thirty-six, which number the town voted to raise and give them £20 each as an additional sum, and chose a committee to hire them. In 1781 the quota was fourteen. Paper money being of little value, the town voted to give the fourteen men who should enlist £90 each in hard money, or other property equivalent, and chose a committee to carry the same into effect; then voted that the sum of £630 be assessed on the inhabitants for that purpose. To defray the expenses incurred by the war and town, there was paid into the treasury, between April 14, 1781, and May 6, 1782, in paper money £22,656 6s. 6d., and in hard money £1,405 13s. 7d. This constituted a part of the expense of the town during the war. "From the commencement to the close of the war was a time of danger, distress, hardship and deprivation."

Rutland was selected by the government as a safe encampment for Burgoyne's army, after its surrender in 1777. A committee was appointed to build a barrack of 120 by 40 feet, two stories high, containing twenty-four rooms twenty feet square; this, together with a number of temporary barracks, was enclosed in a square of several acres, surrounded by a fence twelve feet high. The troops quartered here during the season of 1778, but it being difficult to procure food for the winter, they were removed to the South. All that now remains to mark the location is a pile of debris and a well ten feet in diameter and fifty feet in depth.

The following is the list of "Alarm Men" of 1775:—

Joseph Buckminster, Joseph Blake, James Blair, Samuel Brittain, John Briant, Daniel Bartlett, Joseph Bartlett, Gideon Brown, James Cunningham, Edward Clark, Samuel Cowden, Peter Davis, Ephraim Davis, Nathan Davis, Daniel Davis, Daniel Murray, John McClanahan, Moses Maynard, Jeduthan Moor, William McCobb, Joshua Nurse, George Oak, John Phelps, John Rice, Jonas Reed, Benjamin Reed, Robert Rozer, John Stone, Samuel Stone, Samuel Stone, 2d, Ebenezer Foster, Robert Forbes, John Frink, Ebenezer Frost, Thomas Flint, John Fessenden, Zacharias Gates, John Hucker, James Henderson, Ephraim Hubbard, Matthias Howe, Simon Heald, Samuel Jones, Nathaniel Munro, Paul Moor, Daniel Saunders, George Smith, James Smith, Isaac Savage, Samuel Stratton, John Stratton, John Williams, James Wheeler, John Watson, Francis Maynard, Jonathan Whiting, Simon Stone, Jason Reed, Daniel Estabrook, Samuel Am's.

Below is found the muster-roll of the company of Minute-Men commanded by Capt. Thomas Eustis, which marched from Rutland to Cambridge, April 19, 1775:—

Capt., Thomas Eustis; 1st lieutenant, John Stone; 2d lieutenant, Elijah Stearns; sergeants, Samuel Browning, Timothy Metcalf, Isaac Wheeler; privates, Solomon Munro, Asa Church, Aaron Phelps, Caleb Clap, Joshua Clap, David Howe, Luther Stevens, John Cunningham, James Williams, Joseph Wood, Benjamin Munro, Asa Davis, Jeduthan



Stone, Ephraim Curtis, Israel Stone, William Smith, Silas Bent, Thomas Ball, John Bruce, Benjamin Estabrook, Benjamin Reed, Jr., John Davis, Abraham Wheeler, Jonas Walker, Robert Munro. Benjamin Miles, Jr., Hugh Smith, Michar How, Joseph Wright, Seth Duncan, William Brittan, Jonas Parmenter, Moses Baxter, Jonas Smith, Joseph King, Simon Phelps, Matthias How, David Underwood, Eli Clark, Elijah Stone, Samuel Moor, James Smith.

The following list comprises the names of soldiers accredited to the town, in the Rebellion of 1861-65. Those marked with a star died in the service : —

Lyman A. Baker, Charles R. Bartlett, George F. Bartlett, Roswell Bemis, Herman N. Bemis, \*William E. Briant, Jr., Edward Brown, \*Jona E. Childs, Perrin Dean, \*Martin B. Dean, \*Chauncy P. Demond, John Evans, George Edgley, Frederick Emery, Edson Fairbank, Frank Fagan, Alvin B. Fisher, Edwin J. Forbush, George W. Foster, Albert C. Foster, George P. Flagg, Joseph Gibbs, Samuel C. Green, Ferdinand Gore, James M. Goodwin, Patrick Harrigan, George A. Hill, \*Edson H. Howe, \*Edwin Howe, George L. Hunt, John W. Hooker, Edwin H. Holmes, Oliver P. Judson, John McCarty, C. E. McDonough, John McKnight, Elbridge Lane, George Lakin, Benjamin L. Leonard, \*Daniel A. Leonard, \*Charles H. Leonard, James Martin, Brown Mason, M. R. Moulton, H. V. Moulton, \*John S. Mills, Bryant J. Moore, Frederick Morse, James Murray, Hiram B. Oliver, John F. Orville, \*Charles E. Parker, Isaac E. Parker, Hill Parsons, George B. Phelps, Charles E. Pike, Edward F. Preston, \*Joseph K. Rawson, Thomas Riley, John F. Rice, Irwin Ricker, Dr. James T. Rood, Merrill F. Rogers, Joshua F. Roberts, Edward Russel, Alfred A. Sanderson, Pliny W. Sanderson, Jacob Shaffer, David F. Smith, Frank W. Smith, Daniel H. Smith, James D. Smith, David W. Smith, \*Sidney M. Smith, George G. Taylor, Simeon B. Taylor, S. C. Thompson, Cyrus H. Wesson, Albert Wetherbee, Edward D. Wetherbee, John Welch, Charles West, Charles Williams, Frank Wood, Charles E. Woodis, Willard S. Woodis, Peter Williamson, George P. Woodis.

We believe there was no soldier who went from, and belonged to, this town, but returned (if at all) with an honorable record.

Rutland is principally an agricultural town, and the most of our lands being of a deep soil, will repay the farmer for his toil. The chief products are beef, pork, mutton, poultry, butter, cheese, wood, coal, hay, barley, oats and potatoes. We have no extensive manufactures. At different periods of the history there has been manufactured carriages, sleighs, cabinet furniture, chairs, rakes, boots, baskets, chair-seating, cloth and palm-leaf hats.

A public library of ten hundred and sixty-five well-selected volumes, is one of our valued institutions. It has been established fifteen or twenty years, owned and controlled by the town.

Gen. Rufus Putnam, an officer in the American Revolution, in the year 1782 purchased one of Col. Murray's confiscated farms, removed his family to Rutland, and while in the army gave directions for the management of the same. At the close of the war he returned to his family. During the time he was here he was active, and made himself useful. He officiated as constable, col-



lector, selectman and representative to the General Court. In 1787 he was appointed by Congress as one of the surveyors to lay out the western territory; was one of the committee on the sale of eastern lands; a justice of the peace and of the quorum, and was one of the first and principal settlers of Ohio. At this time the roads from New England to Ohio were not direct or desirable to travel over; no coach, steamboat or iron horse to convey them, but ox-wagons and saddle-ponies were their only modes of conveyance; yet in 1790, Gen. Putnam, with about fifty others from Rutland, emigrated to Ohio and settled at what is now Marietta, and his descendants are some of the leading men of that place and vicinity at the present time.

Among the distinguished men who early settled in town, Col. John Murray was one of the most prominent and influential. He came from Ireland in indigent circumstances, but by enterprise, good fortune, and the assistance of friends, became the most wealthy man that ever lived in Rutland. He represented the town in the General Court for twenty consecutive years, and held most of the offices in the power of the people to bestow. His having been appointed a mandamus counsellor so exasperated the people, at the breaking out of the Revolution, that they arose and compelled him to leave the town for the last time. His real estate, except one farm which was retained for his son, who remained true to his country, was all confiscated and sold to maintain the government in its struggle for liberty.

The following persons, belonging to Rutland, have held offices in the county:—

William Caldwell, Esq., sheriff from 1793 to 1805; Moses White, Esq., sheriff from 1811 to 1812, and Justice of the Court of Sessions, 1807; Daniel Clap, Esq., Register of Deeds from 1784 1816; John Fessenden, Esq., senator from 1787 to 1791; Francis Blake, Esq., senator from 1810 to 1812, and from 1813 to 1815; also clerk of the court 1816 and 1817; Thomas H. Blood, Esq., senator from 1816 to 1818; J. Warren Bigelow, Esq., County Commissioner from 1862 to 1877.

The first murder, after this county was incorporated, was committed in this town. Daniel Campbell, a Scotchman who came into New England in 1716, was barbarously murdered March, 1744, by Edward Fitzpatrick, an employé of said Campbell. Fitzpatrick was tried at the September term of the Superior Court at Worcester, the same year, and found guilty and sentenced to be hung on the eighteenth day of October; but no record has ever been found of his execution, and, strange as it may appear, there never has been any motive discovered to justify the horrid crime. The following legible inscription may be seen upon the headstone of Campbell's grave, in the old cemetery:—

“Here lies buried y<sup>e</sup> body of Mr. Daniel Campbell born in Scotland, came into New England Anno. 1716 was murdered on his own farm in Rutland by Ed. Fitzpatrick an Irishman on March y<sup>e</sup> 8 Anno. 1744 in y<sup>e</sup> 48 year of his age.”

“MAN KNOWETH NOT HIS TIME.”

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SHREWSBURY.

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BY SAMUEL I. HOWE, ESQ.

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## CHAPTER I.

RELATIVE POSITION AND TERRITORY — SETTLEMENT AND INCORPORATION — THE  
REVOLUTION.

THE town of Shrewsbury is situated in the eastern part of the county, adjoined on the north-west by Boylston and a corner of West Boylston, on the west by Worcester, on the south by Grafton and a part of Millbury, and on the east by Westborough and a part of Northborough. The distance from the shire town is five and a half miles, and from the capital, by way of the old post-road, thirty-seven miles.

The township of Shrewsbury was granted to certain persons, most of whom were from Marlborough, on Nov. 2, 1717. The original tract was much larger than the present territory. The township at first contained all the lands lying between the original grant for Lancaster on the north, Worcester on the west, Sutton on the south, and Marlborough on the east. This large territory included the greater part of Boylston, West Boylston, a part of Sterling, Westborough and Grafton. In 1741 four petitioners, Ebenezer Cutler, Obadiah Newton, Noah Brooks and David Read, with their farms, were annexed to Grafton. In 1752 all lands in the northern part of the town, lying on the north side of the Quinnepoxet River, and between the towns of Lancaster and Holden, known as the "Leg," were rated off, and in 1768 joined to Lancaster. During the year 1762 other inhabitants living in the south-westerly part of the town, called the "Shoe," were annexed to Westborough. On March 1, 1776, the lands lying in the northern part of the town, then called the "Second Parish of Shrewsbury," were annexed to Boylston, and in March, 1793, a small part on the west was joined to Westborough. The present territory of Shrewsbury comprises about thirteen thousand acres.

In 1717 certain persons, formerly of Marlborough, became the first settlers of Shrewsbury. Previous to this, probably in 1716, these persons petitioned for a township. This petition or a copy cannot be found, but the "Viewing

Committee," appointed by the General Court, made their "Report on the Petition of Marlboro' men," as follows:—

"Pursuant to an act of the General Assembly at their session in May last, we the subscribers have been upon the land petitioned to be a township by John Brigham and thirty others; have viewed the situation and the quality of the same, and informed ourselves of the circumstances of the petitioners, that desire the grant of the land for a township, and are of opinion that they, and such as join with them, are a competent number, and such as are likely by themselves, or their descendants, to make a good and speedy settlement thereon. And that, if this Honorable Court allow to the westerly part of Marlboro' a line to be continued from the westerly line of Lt. Rice's farm, until it meets with Fay's farm, and then to bound by said Fay's farm, according to the line thereof, until it meet with Sutton line on the southward, and from the north-west corner of said Rice's land to run upon a straight line to a heap of stones, called Warner's Corner which is the most Easterly corner of Haynes' farm by the County Road, and from thence by a line running North 20 degrees East by the needle, till it meet with Lancaster line on the North, it will not so disadvantage the land petitioned for a township, but that it may be very accommodable and entertain a suitable number of persons to make a good town."

"SAMUEL THAXTER.

JOHN CHANDLER.

JONATHAN REMINGTON.

"MARLBORO', June 19, 1717."

On the foregoing report it was ordered, on Nov. 2, 1717,—

"That the tract of land protracted and described, with the farms heretofore granted to particular persons contained in the plat be made a township, excepting so much thereof, as the report of Samuel Thaxter, John Chandler and Jonathan Remington, Esqs., doth propose to be taken off and added to the Westerly part of Marlboro'; and that Samuel Thaxter, Jonathan Remington, and Francis Fullam, Esqs., be a committee fully empowered to grant and lay out the whole of said lands (except what has been heretofore granted) to such persons as they in their wisdom shall think most likely to advance the settlement of the place; they paying the said committee for the use of the province, not exceeding twelve pence per acre for said lands, and the charge of the committee for laying out the same, which is to be done in as convenient and defensible a manner as the circumstances of the plan will admit of, provided they have at least forty families settled there with an orthodox minister within the space of three years, and that a lot and other accommodations as large and convenient as may be to the place, will admit of in the judgment of said Committee be laid out to the first settled minister, also a lot for the ministry, and another for the use of the school."

The "laying-out committee" made its report on Dec. 18, 1718. During the summer before lands were allotted in parcels varying from fifty to seventy acres, on condition that before June, 1725, each "lot man" or grantee should pay "for the use of the province" three pounds and twelve shillings. The names of the grantees are here given in the order reported by the committee:

Joseph Buckminster, John Houghton, George Brown, John Keyes, Sr., Jotham Brig-



ham, John Wheeler, James Keyes, John Keyes, Jr., Eleazer Taylor, Thomas Hale, Jacob Hinds, Samuel Crosby, John Gates, John Upham, Daniel Rand, Richard Temple, John Shattuck, Joseph Baker, John Wheeler, Samuel Brigham, John Sherman, William Johnson, Thomas Gleason, Peter Smith, Abiah Bush, William Ward, John Brigham, Peter Hains, Joshua Hains, David Hains, Moses Newton, John Crosby, Jonathan Witt, Thomas Hapgood, James Gleason, Caleb Rice, Elias Keyes, Jonathan Loring, Nahum Ward, Edward Goddard, Gershom Keyes.

In addition to these grants the committee "appointed by the general court to settle the town of Shrewsbury" were given what was called the "Committee's farm." It contained fifteen hundred acres and formed the north-west corner of the township.

During the five years that followed the early settlements and grants, occupation proceeded slowly; but in 1727 the number of inhabitants warranted the presentation of this petition:—

*"To the Hon. William Dummer Esq., the Lieutenant Governor, and Commander-in-chief, the Honorable Council, and the Honorable House of Representatives of His Majesty's Province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England, in General Court assembled, November 22, 1727:*

"The petition of the inhabitants of Shrewsbury in the County of Middlesex, humbly sheweth: That your petitioners were by the Great and Honorable Court, erected into a township, and not having granted unto them the immunities and privileges of other towns within this Province, were put under the care of a committee, which committee carried on that work to great satisfaction, but have now declined acting; so that your petitioners are under great difficulties as to paying their Minister and raising the public taxes; and the Province Treasurer has issued forth his warrant directing the assessing of the inhabitants of the town of Shrewsbury, their Province tax for this year; and forasmuch as your petitioners have no Selectmen, or Assessors, nor are empowered to choose town officers whereby many and great inconveniences do arise; therefore your petitioners most humbly pray your Honor's consideration of the premises, and that your Honors, would be pleased to empower the town of Shrewsbury to use and exercise the same immunities and privileges as other towns within this Province hold and enjoy, and that a day may be assigned for the choice of town officers for the year current, and your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray.

JOHN KEYES,  
DANIEL HOWE,  
NAHUM WARD,  
*In behalf of the Town."*

The foregoing petition was presented to the General Court and received action on Dec. 14, 1727:—

"In the House of Representatives December 14, 1727. Read and ordered that the prayer of the petitioners be granted, and that the said town of Shrewsbury is accordingly endowed with equal powers, privileges and immunities with any other town in this Province, and Captain John Keyes, a principal inhabitant in the said town be

empowered and directed to notify and summon the inhabitants, duly qualified for voters, to meet and assemble for the choosing of town officers to stand until the next annual election."

The first town meeting was held on Dec. 29, 1727. Lieut. Nahum Ward was moderator, John Keyes, Sr., was chosen clerk, Nahum Ward, John Keyes, John Keyes, Jr., Samuel Wheelock and Isaac Stone, selectmen and assessors, and Ensign Daniel Howe, treasurer.

From the time of the incorporation of the town of Shrewsbury to that of the uprising of the American Colonies in defence of their inalienable rights and privileges, its history, according to the records, is mainly ecclesiastical. It is evident, however, from the following petitions, that Shrewsbury was represented in the expedition against Crown Point in 1755: —

"A petition of Nathan Howe of Shrewsbury, Ensign, also of William Howe and Ephraim Smith, of said town, on account of his son Aaron, soldiers in the late Crown Point expedition, who returned from the army sick, praying an allowance of their accounts exhibited; also Sarah Smith, Executrix of Joshua Smith, physician, who administered to sundry sick soldiers on their return home. Granted to Nathan Howe, £5 16s. 9½*d.*; William Howe, £6 6*d.*; Ephraim Smith, £3 4s. 4*d.*; Sarah Smith, Executrix, £1 14s. 8*d.*"

In the same year — 1756 — "Zebediah Johnson, of Shrewsbury, represents that he had a gun impressed for the use of a soldier, valued at 30 shillings, of which he received two dollars; that the soldier had run away, and he was likely to lose the balance, and prays relief. Granted to him twenty shillings in full for his gun."

As required by law, Shrewsbury was early supplied with a whipping-post and stocks which were placed near the meeting-house. According to tradition, "the person who made the stocks for this town was the first to occupy them, and received payment for them in the remittance of a fine, that accrued to the town for his offence."

The first public act of the town of Shrewsbury in regard to the Revolution was taken in May, 1770, when "a vote of thanks was passed to the merchants and other inhabitants of the town of Boston for the noble and generous stand they had taken in the defence of the people's rights; and in May 1772 the town instructed its representative by no means, directly, or indirectly, to give up any constitutional right, nor ask for a removal of the General Assembly to its ancient and legal seat, in such manner as to give up the claim the House of Representatives have heretofore so justly set up."

In January, 1773, the town voted "that viewing themselves as subjects they had an undeniable right to life, liberty and property, and that the several acts of Parliament and Administration are subversive of these rights."

Early in the year 1774, it was voted "that we will totally lay aside the use of all Teas on which a duty is payable, or hath been paid by virtue of any act



RESIDENCE OF THOMAS RICE, SHREWSBURY, MASS.





of the British Parliament, that we will be ever ready to do all in our power to preserve our just rights and privileges, and will view, as an enemy to the Continent any one who shall appear to be instrumental in carrying said Act of Parliament into Execution, and that the town of Boston be furnished with a copy of the proceedings of this meeting."

In August of the same year the town voted "that if the courts to be holden at Worcester, for the County of Worcester, for the future, be, in consequence of the late Parliamentary Acts, or any new appointment by our Governor, authorized by said acts, that the town will resist and not suffer said courts to do business." During the following month, the town directed its constables not to serve the venire issued by the court to be holden at Worcester and, also, voted "to indemnify them for neglecting to serve the illegal and unprecedented venire lately sent to this town."

In 1774, the town voted "to purchase an iron field-piece and ammunition for the same at the expense and for the use of the town." During the same year, it was voted "to have two companies of militia, or training soldiers in the South Parish." Of one company, Job Cushing, Nathan Howe and Jasper Stone were lieutenants, and Isaac Drury, ensign. Of the other Asa Brigham, Isaac Harrington and Nathaniel Munroe, were lieutenants, and Samuel Noyes, ensign.

On Dec. 27, 1774, "voted unanimously to adopt the association relative to the non-importation and non-consumption of British goods, recommended by the Continental Congress, and the recommendations of the Provincial of the 5th of December, 1774; and in order to carry the same into vigorous execution, the following persons are chosen a committee of inspection:—Phineas Heywood, Job Cushing, Isaac Temple, Ross Wyman, Cyprian Keyes, Ezra Beaman, Daniel Hemenway, Asa Brigham, Isaac Harrington, Amariah Bigelow, Samuel Crosby, Thomas Symmes, John Hastings, David Taylor and Jonas Stone; also voted that the collector of taxes be prohibited from paying the outstanding monies in their hands to Harrison Gray, Esq., Treasurer, but that they pay the same to Henry Gardner, Esq., of Stow; also to indemnify the collectors for so doing; also to indemnify the assessors of this town for not assessing the Province tax and for neglecting to return a certificate thereof to Harrison Gray, as by law required."

In the same year the town "granted to the Hon. Artemas Ward, £11 10s. to pay him for his services in attending the Provincial Congress at Concord and Cambridge."

On May 2, it was voted "that each parish raise as many men as they can, to hold themselves in readiness to reinforce our army near Boston, if needed, with such officers as the companies shall think proper; also that Phineas Heywood, Isaac Temple, Edward Flint, Ross Wyman, and Isaac Harrington be a committee to examine the Rev. Ebenezer Morse and others, suspected of Toryism." Mr. Morse was found guilty, and it was voted "that the committee of corre-

spondence forthwith take from said Morse his arms, ammunition and warlike implements of all kinds to remain in said committee's hands for the present ; and that the said Morse do not pass over the lines of the 2d Parish in Shrewsbury, on any occasion whatever, without a permit from two or more of the committee of said precinct." Similar action was taken in regard to other Tories.

At the county convention, held at Worcester, on Aug. 9, 1774, the county of Worcester was divided into seven "regiments," and the sixth regiment comprised the towns of Southborough, Northborough, Westborough, Grafton and Shrewsbury.

During the Revolution delegates were chosen as follows :—To the first Provincial Congress, 1774, Artemas Ward and Phineas Heywood ; to the second Provincial Congress, 1775, Artemas Ward ; to the third Provincial Congress, 1775, Daniel Hemenway ; to the convention to frame a Constitution of Massachusetts, 1779, Daniel Hemenway ; to the convention to adopt a Constitution of the United States, 1789, Isaac Harrington ; to the convention to revise the Constitution of the United States, 1821, Nathan Pratt.

During the insurrection of 1787, called "Shays' Rebellion," the town of Shrewsbury was the place of rendezvous for the insurgents. "The town wore the appearance of a military camp ; drilling of men, marching and counter-marching."

Following is a list of pensioners who entered the army of the Revolution from Shrewsbury :—

John Bragg, Humphrey Bigelow, Peter Cary, William Dexter, George Filmore, Austin Flint, Jonathan Harrington, Jonah Howe, Daniel Harrington, Nathan Howe, Jonas Hastings, Ephraim Holland, Jonah Holland, Daniel Holden, Thomas Harrington, Nathaniel Hapgood, Solomon Howe, Gardner Howe, Joseph B. Jennison, Ebenezer Mann, Benjamin Maynard, Ithamar Newton, Marshall Newton, Calvin Newton, Benjamin Pratt, Nathan Pratt, Stephen Pratt, John Peirks, Jasper Rand, Calvin Sawyer, Ashur Smith, Lewis Smith, Elijah Southgate, Samuel Smith, Lewis Smith, 2d, Jonas Stone, Stephen Smith, Joseph S. Temple, Asa Wheelock, Daniel Williams.

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## CHAPTER II.

PHYSICAL FEATURES — ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY — EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS —  
AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURES — THE CIVIL WAR.

SHREWSBURY, England, has no fairer namesake than Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. The latter, owing to its position and natural advantages, to the efforts and industry of its early inhabitants, and to the thrift and pride of their successors, has become one of the more picturesque as well as one of the wealthier towns in the county. The centre of the town, so called, is on the



southern slope of Meeting-House Hill. A part of the old post-road between Boston and Worcester is the main street of the town. Formerly the only direct communication with Worcester was by this road, which entered the city at the northern limit of Lake Quinsigamond. At the centre are the Congregational and Methodist church edifices, high school, town hall, stores, post-office and the town's common. The common, with adjoining lands, formerly comprised about seventeen acres, and belonged to William Taylor, one of the original proprietors and early settlers. He gave the land to the proprietors of the meeting-house on condition that the house of worship was erected upon it. Many years after Daniel Smith, claiming to be an heir of William Taylor, took possession of the common, plowed it and made preparations to obtain a crop of rye. The town brought action for trespass, ousted the claimant, and secured the rye and the common for ever.

One mile south of the centre is the old turnpike road, laid out before the town was incorporated and while it was a part of Middlesex County. The act chartering the Worcester Turnpike Association was passed on June 10, 1808. It is nearly parallel with the post-road and crosses Lake Quinsigamond about midway. In 1826 four stages a day passed on the post-road, and five on the turnpike. The town is abundantly supplied with small streams and brooks. Bummet Brook and Hop Brook drain the eastern part of the town, and South Meadow Brook and others the Western. The land surface is remarkably uneven and diversified, and presents a succession of rounded hills and winding valleys. Rawson Hill, Harlow's Hill, Sewall's Hill and Meeting-House Hill, in the northern part, Ward Hill in the eastern, Green Hill in the south-eastern, and Prospect Hill, in the south-western part, are all commanding elevations. The latter overlooks the beautiful lake of Quinsigamond, the greater part of which is in the territory of Shrewsbury. The town contains about three thousand acres of woodland, from which large quantities of fuel and timber are obtained. Agriculture is the chief occupation, and the soil is well adapted to its prosecution. The town is noted for its extensive and productive apple orchards.

The manufacture of watches was an early enterprise in this town, and the first of the kind in this country. As early as 1780, Mr. Luther Goddard, a native of the town, commenced the business of making brass clocks; and being a man of great ingenuity and perseverance, he soon turned his attention to watch-making, which business was very successfully pursued by him for a number of years, producing watches superior to what were in general use at that day. Many of his make are still in existence, and one is at present preserved by the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester. Many of the intricate tools used in the construction of a watch were the product of his own invention, skill and native genius, and in the early part of the time he was obliged to procure skilled foreign workmen, as no native mechanics could be found who were able to cope with the fine work. This enterprise was con-

tinued in Shrewsbury till 1817, when it was removed to Worcester; where it formed the nucleus for the large and successful business carried on for so many years by his sons Daniel and Parley Goddard, who were apprentices of their father in Shrewsbury. Mr. Goddard died in 1842, at the age of 80 years.

About the year 1797 John Mason, a native of Sherburne, Mass., and a gunsmith by trade, removed to this town and commenced the manufacture of rifles, then a new enterprise in this country; and for a long series of years made marked progress in perfecting the rifle, as well as the shot-gun, having several apprentices who proved experts in the business. About 1815-18 no less than five prominent manufacturers of rifles were located in this town, as follows: John Mason, Silas Allen, Henry Baldwin, Josiah Maynard and John Maynard. These turned out rifles of superior workmanship and finish, costing generally not less than fifty dollars, and often as high as one hundred dollars each, which had a wide reputation for excellence. Others followed later in the same line, but the once famous rifle-makers of Shrewsbury have long since disappeared. Mr. Mason, the originator, died in 1843, at the age of 68 years.

East of Shrewsbury Centre, in what is known as the "Lower Village," where are elegant and costly residences, are the extensive currying works of Nelson & Rice, founded by Nymphas Pratt, an early and prominent resident, who manufactured shoes, and tanned and curried. At Mr. Pratt's failure, Jonathan H. Nelson and Thomas Rice, apprentices, became owners, buying of Pliny Merriek and others on Sept. 18, 1841, and of L. S. Allen the adjoining tanyard on Sept. 29, 1862. Paul D. Boutell was admitted to partnership on Jan. 1, 1866; John W. Lawrence was admitted a partner in April, 1877, and retired in April, 1879. This establishment is the largest of the kind in Worcester County, giving employment to about fifty workmen, and producing about eighteen hundred sides per week, and in 1873 the value of the product was \$400,000. The firm has unquestioned credit and is widely known in this country and in Europe. The company own and operate a tanyard in Chester, and one in Winchendon, Massachusetts, and one in Gilsum, New Hampshire.

In this village the manufacture of boots and shoes was begun in the year 1823, or about that time, by Leander Fales, who was the leader in this industry for forty years or more. Boot-making is now in progress, and receives the attention of a small part of the inhabitants.

A few of the more notable societies and organizations of the town claim some notice here.

One of the oldest is the "Thief-Detecting Society," which was formed in 1814. The first meeting was held at James Hamilton's inn, February 28 of that year, and the society has remained unimpaired till the present day, holding meetings for choice of officers on the first Monday in January.

The "Agricultural Associates of Shrewsbury and Vicinity" was organized in 1815, and adopted its constitution Jan. 2, 1816. They established stated meetings at three times in the year, which were to be devoted to "discussions



and dissertations upon agricultural subjects." This society was earlier in its origin than the similar one in Worcester, in which it, however, was finally merged.

The "Shrewsbury Rifle Company," one of the early independent military organizations of the State, was chartered by Gov. Strong in 1815, upon petition of Jacob Rice and fifty-three others. For a period of about twenty-five years it maintained its position as one of the most efficient and active companies of the regiment, and it included in this time over two hundred and fifty enlisted men, representing the best families of the town, and in some cases successive generations in the same line. The list of commanders is as follows: Jacob Rice, Nathan Baldwin, Erastus Tucker, Amasa Howe, Leander Fales, Joab Hapgood, William H. Knowlton, Samuel Harrington and Leander Sawyer.

Shrewsbury has a handsome town hall, erected in 1872, on the site of the Old Haven Tavern, a famous resort before the era of railways. A high school was established in 1867, and there are seven common or district schools. The public library was established by the town on June 22, 1872, when five hundred dollars were appropriated. The library contains about fifteen hundred volumes, and is supported by the annual grant of the dog-fund and other moneys.

The post-office in Shrewsbury was established in 1804, and has since been at the centre of the town, with the exception of two years, during which it was in the lower village. The following have been postmasters: Joseph Stone, Dec. 4, 1804; Calvin R. Stone, April 2, 1816; same, Jan. 2, 1826; W. W. Pratt, July 16, 1835; Josiah A. Brigham, Sept. 6, 1845; Thomas Lyon, June 15, 1846; Lorenzo Maynard, June 5, 1848; Osborn Stearns, 1850; A. B. Bliss, 1852; Lozano C. Knowlton, 1855; Samuel I. Howe, Aug. 1, 1861, and is postmaster at the present time.

The church in Shrewsbury was organized soon after the settlement of the town. On Oct. 27, 1719, the proprietors of the township of Shrewsbury voted "that the place for the meeting-house be on Rocky Plain, near the pines, and that in case the land agreed upon could not be procured upon reasonable terms, the meeting-house be set on the hill northward therefrom, and that the meeting-house be forty feet in length, thirty-two in breadth and fourteen feet stud. In April following a committee was appointed "to manage about the Meeting-House," and on June 22, 1720, "voted £210 for and towards building a Meeting-House, it being five pounds on each proprietor"; also, "chose a committee to address the Rev. Mr. Breck of Marlborough in behalf of the proprietors of the town of Shrewsbury praying his notes of a sermon preached by himself in said town at a lecture on the 15th June 1720 in order to have the same sermon printed at the expense of the proprietors." This was the first sermon preached in Shrewsbury. At the same meeting, also, the proprietors empowered a committee to contract with some person "to build and finish a Meeting-House." This house was probably built in 1721 or 1722.

The meetings of the proprietors were held at the house of the widow Eliza-



beth Howe, in Marlborough. In November, 1722, "on application to John Houghton of Lancaster, he issued his warrant calling a meeting of the proprietors, to be held on the 28th of that month, at the Meeting-House, to consider and conclude of all, or anything, or things proper and necessary to be done for the procuring of a minister. That was the first time the meeting-house was occupied. It stood eight rods north-east of where the present Congregational church now stands.

In October, 1764, it was voted to build a new house, and in anticipation of "the raising," which occurred on May 13, 1766, the parish voted "to send to Boston for a barrel of rum."

"It was at this raising that General Artemas Ward, then a colonel in the colonial militia, received the order of the governor, Sir Francis Bernard, taking away his commission; Whereupon the late colonel, after reading the order aloud to the persons present, turned to the governor's messenger, an officer in full uniform who had ridden from Boston to serve the order, and asked him to take his thanks to the governor for furnishing him with evidence that he was what the governor was not, a friend to his country; and to tell him that of his honors, his commission and his removal, he regarded the second as the greater."

During the year 1807, a belfry, with steeple, was added, and a bell placed therein. In 1834, the house of worship was removed to its present site. The church society was organized on Dec. 4, 1723, and, on the same day, Mr. Job Cushing was ordained as religious teacher of the parish. He was given sixty pounds "as a settlement, and sixty pounds yearly salary for two years, then to rise four pounds a year until it should amount to eighty pounds a year." Mr. Cushing remained until his death in 1760. During his ministry, on Oct. 6, 1743, the north part of the town was incorporated as a distinct parish, and called the North Parish of Shrewsbury. It now lies in Boylston.

In the year 1731, a controversy arose in regard to the principles of church government, having special reference to the appointment of ruling elder, and continued to disturb the harmony of the church for ten years or more.

On Feb. 2, 1761, Joshua Paine was invited to the pastorate of the church, and was offered an annual salary of £66 13s. and £200 settlement, both of which he declined. The ordination of Joseph Sumner occurred on Jan. 23, 1762, and "was conducted in the open air on a platform erected in front of the church, and the day observed with fasting and prayer in conformity with the vote of the church, in which the parish concurred; 'to observe said day as a day of fasting and prayer, as being most agreeable to the Scripture rule of ordaining as said church apprehends.'"

On Jan. 30, 1771, it was voted "that those may not be admitted to the privilege of baptism for their children concerning whom it is evident that they do not practice praying in their families"; also on Feb. 2, 1791, "voted to begin to sing Dr. Watts' version of the Psalms with his Hymns, provided there be no objection lodged with the pastor from the congregation."

Dr. Sumner remained with the church until his death in 1824, and, during his pastorate of more than sixty years, one thousand two hundred and fifty-one persons were admitted to the church by baptism, and three hundred and sixty-seven otherwise.

Pastors : — Job Cushing, ordained on Dec. 4, 1723, died on Aug. 6, 1760 ; Joseph Sumner, D. D., ordained on June 23, 1762, died on Dec. 9, 1824 ; Samuel B. Ingersoll, colleague of Dr. Sumner, ordained on June 14, 1820, died on Nov. 14, 1820 ; Edwards Whipple, second colleague of Dr. Sumner, installed on Sept. 20, 1821, died on Sept. 17, 1822 ; George Allen, third colleague of Dr. Sumner, ordained on Nov. 19, 1823, dismissed on June 18, 1840 ; James Averill, ordained on June 22, 1841, dismissed on Nov. 15, 1848 ; N. W. Williams, ordained on Feb. 28, 1849, dismissed on April 27, 1858 ; William A. McGinley, ordained on June 2, 1859, dismissed on July 27, 1865 ; E. Porter Dyer, installed on Nov. 7, 1867, dismissed on June 19, 1877. John L. Scudder, the present pastor, was ordained on Dec. 26, 1877.

A Baptist society was organized in Shrewsbury in 1812, and a house of worship built in the following year. At its formation, the society was called the "Shrewsbury and Boylston Baptist Society," and had thirty-three members. After a Baptist church was formed in Boylston that in Shrewsbury was styled the Shrewsbury Baptist Society. Elias McGregory, the first pastor, was ordained on June 17, 1818, and dismissed in May, 1821. Samuel W. Vilas supplied the pulpit until his death on July 15, 1823. No pastor was ever settled by this society. The pulpit was supplied by Elder Luther Goddard, Dr. Jonathan Going, and others. In about the year 1836, the society disbanded as an organization, and united with the Baptist Church at New England Village, in Grafton.

A society called the First Restoration Society of Shrewsbury, was formed on April 11, 1820, and incorporated on April 26, 1824. In 1823, a house of worship was built on the turnpike, a mile from the centre of the town, in what is now called South Shrewsbury. Jacob Wood was the first pastor. This society had a precarious existence for about ten years, and was finally disbanded.

The Methodist Society in Shrewsbury had its origin in 1845, in a class formed by the Rev. Gardner Rice. Previous to this time, there had been preaching in a school-house in the western part of the town. Meetings were afterward held in Haven Tavern until the present house of worship was erected in 1847. The first preacher of the Methodist faith in Shrewsbury was Leonard B. Griffin. John W. Wheeler followed Mr. Rice, and he was succeeded by Jefferson Hascall, who remained two years. Other pastors : — D. K. Banister, 1848 ; David Sherman, 1850 ; William R. Bagnall, 1852 ; J. Hascall, 1854 ; William Gardner, 1855 ; D. K. Banister, 1857 ; Hiram P. Satchwell, 1859 ; William W. Colburn, 1861 ; Joseph W. Lewis, 1863 ; Charles T. Johnson, 1865 ; John Peterson, 1867 ; William Merrill, 1869 ; J. Hascall, 1871 ; Edwin



S. Chase, 1871; N. Bemis, 1872; A. Caldwell, 1873; S. H. Noon, 1875; W. M. Hubbard, 1877; O. W. Adams, 1879.

A Catholic house of worship was erected in Shrewsbury in 1873, the present pastor of which is A. G. Darbuel.

At this point it is proper to notice the fine old mansion still existing in the town and known as the "Sumner House." This patrimony has been in the family ever since 1762, when it was purchased by Rev. Joseph Sumner of Artemas and Elisha Ward. Before this it had been occupied by Artemas Ward (afterwards major-general), having been conveyed to him by his father, in 1753, "in consideration of his love, good will and affection to his well-beloved son." Some part of the building had been used as a store. Dr. Sumner, on acquiring the property made many improvements, and at length erected the present mansion in the year 1797. It is now in possession of Geo. Sumner, Esq., of Worcester, being occupied by the fourth generation of the family.

In the last war the record of the town of Shrewsbury is worthy of its citizens. The first "war meeting" was held on May 2, 1861. A committee was chosen "to consider and report what action the town should take in regard to the war," and it reported and advised the town "to pay to each volunteer one dollar a day for each day's drill, two days in the week for the first four weeks, and one dollar a day for one day's drill each week during the second four weeks." It was voted to appropriate two thousand dollars to purchase uniforms and equipments; also to pay each volunteer one dollar a day while in service, one dollar and fifty cents a week to the wife of a volunteer, and fifty cents a week to each child under fifteen years of age. On July 31; the town voted to aid families of volunteers as provided by law.

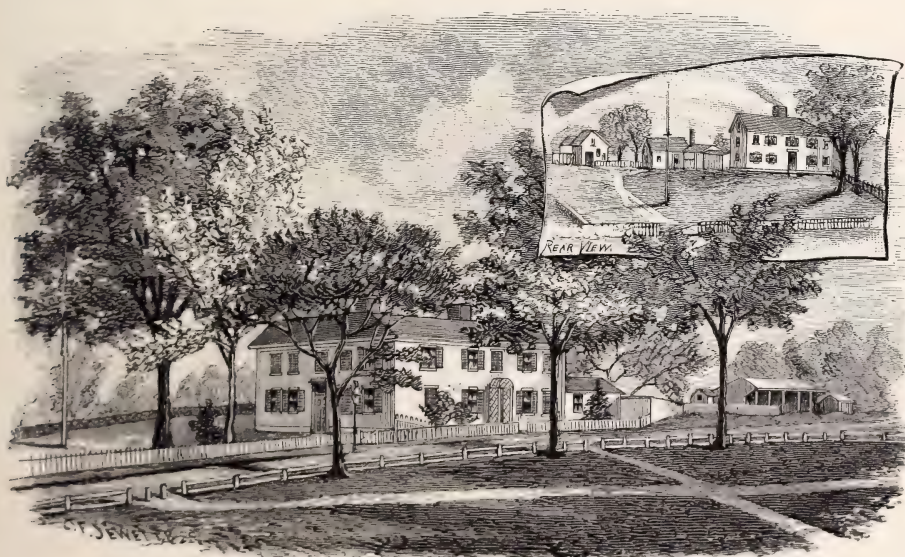
In March, 1862, it was voted that "children who have been born to volunteers since the time of their enlistment shall be entitled to receive the same amount of aid as those born previous and the selectmen be authorized to pay the same." On July 28 the town offered a bounty of one hundred and twenty-five dollars "to each of the twenty-two men called for to fill the quota of the town when mustered in to the credit of the town, and if said volunteers shall serve for two years, or die, or become disabled during the second year's service, twenty-five dollars additional to each or to his heirs." Mr. Jonathan H. Nelson offered and gave to each volunteer, ten dollars. At the same meeting it was voted to enter the names of volunteers on the records of the town. The selectmen were authorized to borrow money and a committee was appointed "to canvass the town for volunteers." On August 8, the town voted "to pay a bounty of one hundred and twenty-five dollars" to each inhabitant of the town who shall enlist for nine months," and again the selectmen were authorized to borrow money, and to give State aid to families of nine months' volunteers.

In March, 1863, the selectmen were empowered to continue to pay State aid





OLD HOMESTEAD OF MAJ.-GEN. ARTEMAS WARD, SHREWSBURY, MASS.  
(Where he lived and died.)



SUMNER HOUSE, SHREWSBURY, MASS.



to the families of volunteers. On April 6, it was voted to appropriate three thousand five hundred dollars "to defray the expenses of removing to their homes the bodies of those soldiers who have died, or may die in the service of the Federal Government, provided the families of the deceased request it."

In 1864, State aid was continued to families of volunteers, and on April 25, it was voted to grant seven hundred and fifty dollars "to pay bounties to five recruits." On August 1, the selectmen were ordered "to pay one hundred and twenty-five dollars to any person liable to a draft who furnishes a substitute"; also "to keep on recruiting, to pay the same bounty until March 1, 1865, and to borrow money to pay the same."

At the March meeting in 1865, the town voted State aid to families of volunteers, during that year as formerly. On May 29, it was voted to raise five thousand dollars by taxation within three years, "to refund money contributed by individuals to pay bounties to volunteers during the past year and the selectmen be authorized to borrow the whole amount for the present."

Shrewsbury furnished one hundred and seventy-seven men — a surplus of twenty over and above all demands. One was a commissioned officer. The amount expended for war purposes was \$16,663.90; and for State aid during the war, \$5,214.26.

In 1869, a handsome monument, to the memory of fallen soldiers was erected on the town's common and on it is inscribed these names: —

Adj. Charles G. Wood, J. J. Witherbee, M. D., Edward A. Andrews, Albert W. Carey, Horatio A. Cutting, James H. Cutting, Silas N. Carter, Hiram W. Doane, Thomas B. Eaton, Leander Fay, Nathan B. Garfield, Charles F. Gleason, Frank L. Hapgood, Hollis Holden, Amasa S. Hyde, John F. Howe, Michael O'Laughlin, Alonzo B. Louks, Calvin C. Pratt, Franklin J. Perry, Alfred F. Porter, Charles F. Rice, Edward P. Richardson, George W. B. Sawyer, Elijah Smith, George E. Sprague, Henry A. Sawtelle, Jonas M. Wheelock, William H. Wilson.

Following are the names of representatives to the General Court: —

Nahum Ward, 1735, 1737, 1740; Caleb Johnson, 1741; Nahum Ward, 1742; Caleb Johnson, 1743; Nahum Ward, 1744; John Keyes, 1746; Isaac Temple, 1747; Nahum Ward, 1748; Isaac Temple, 1749; Nahum Ward, 1751; Phineas Heywood, 1752 to 1755, inclusive; Isaac Temple, 1756; Artemas Ward, 1757; Isaac Temple, 1758; Artemas Ward, 1759 to 1770, inclusive; Phineas Heywood, 1771 to 1774, inclusive; Jonas Stone, 1775, 1776, 1777; Charles Bowker, 1778; John Maynard, 1779; Ephraim Beaman, 1780; John Maynard, 1781; Artemas Ward, 1782; Jonas Temple, 1783; Artemas Ward, 1784, 1785, 1786; Isaac Harrington, 1787 to 1791, inclusive; Jonah Howe, 1792 to 1807, inclusive; Vashni Hemenway, 1808 to 1813, inclusive; Jonah Howe, 1814; Samuel Haven, 1815, 1816, 1817; Nathan Howe, 1819; Nathan Pratt, 1821; Fort. Harrington, 1822; Balch Dean, 1826; Nymphas Pratt and Jacob Rice, 1827; Thomas Harrington, 1830; Nymphas Pratt,



1831, 1832; Balch Dean, 1835; Adam Harrington and A. R. Phelps, 1838; Adam Harrington and A. R. Phelps, 1839; Job C. Stone, 1840, 1841; Lucius S. Allen, 1848, 1849, 1850; Luke B. Witherby, 1851; Adam Harrington, 1852; Leander Fales, 1853, Lucius S. Allen, 1854; Jonathan Nichols, 1856; Rev. Nathan W. Williams, 1858; Jonathan H. Nelson, 1861; Thomas W. Ward, 1864; Charles O. Green, 1865; Thomas Rice, Senator, 1869; George H. Harlow, 1872; Oliver B. Wyman, 1877.

Gen. Artemas Ward's biography is written upon his tombstone, and reads thus:—

“Major Gen. Artemas Ward, son of Col. N. Ward H. U. 1748–1762 a Justice of the C. C. Pleas For the Co. of Worcester—1778 a Major in the expedition against Canada—1759 appointed Col. 1766 his commission as Col. revoked for his inflexible opposition to arbitrary power, whereupon he informed the Royal Gov. that he had been twice honored—1768 chosen one of the executive council and by the same Royal Gov. and for the same reason negated and deprived of a seat at the Board—1775 appointed to the command of the army at Cambridge and by the Continental Congress first Major Gen. of the Army of the Revolution—1779 appointed a member of the Continental Congress, and under the Federal Government repeatedly elected 16 years a Representative of this town in Legislature & in 1786, Speaker of the house of Representatives.

“Firmness of mind & integrity of purpose Were characteristic of his whole life, so that he was never swayed by the applause, or censure of man, but ever acted under a deep sense of duty to his country and accountability to his God. Long will his memory be precious among the friends of liberty & religion. Oct. 27, 1800 Æ 78.”

Calvin Goddard, M. C. 1801 to 1805, and seventeen years mayor of the city of Norwich, Connecticut, was born in Shrewsbury on July 17, 1768, and died on May 2, 1842. He was a judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, and member of the Hartford Convention in 1814.

Job Cushing, son of Rev. Job Cushing, the first settled minister in town, was born in Shrewsbury Jan. 1, 1728. In April, 1775, he marched to Lexington at the head of a company of minute-men; was captain in Col. John Ward's regiment, in 1776; then major, Sixth Worcester regiment; then colonel of the same. He was both at Bennington and the surrender of Burgoyne. Before the war he kept an inn on the site of the present town hall, and after the return of peace, when he opened a tavern called the “American Arms.” He died April 16, 1808, aged eighty years.

Austin Flint, son of Dr. Edward Flint, was born here, Jan. 4, 1760. He studied medicine with his father, and in after life became eminent in this profession. He enlisted and marched to Bennington Aug. 16, 1777, after which action he remained with the army in the region of the Hudson till after the surrender of Burgoyne. Later, he was again in service, being found at West Point in 1781. He afterwards dwelt in the town of Leicester, married and reared a successful family, and died there, Aug. 29, 1850, aged ninety years.

Levi Pease is also to be noticed as the pioneer in the stage enterprise in New

England. He started the first line between Boston and Hartford, and was for a long time the only contractor for mail-carriage known or responsible to the government for that duty. He had been connected, while yet young, with the commissary department of the army; and in later life he kept a tavern in Shrewsbury, where he was active till his death, Jan. 24, 1824, aged eighty-four years.

The town of Shrewsbury furnished one full-commissioned officer in the French war; one major-general in the Revolution; a member of the Executive Council and Speaker of the House of Representatives; one Judge of Probate; two Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Worcester County; two Representatives to Congress, and one High Sheriff of Worcester County.

Statistics:—Population, 1820, 1,458; 1830, 1,356; 1840, 1,481; 1850, 1,623; 1875, 1,524; polls, 430; families, 377; dwellings, 332; farms, 158; acres cultivated, 3,469; acreage of farms, 10,420; cows, 789; sheep, 49; horses 336; value of farm products, \$166,302; value of farm property, \$674,872; capital invested in manufactures, \$420,400 value of products of manufactures \$461,732; total products, \$628,034; value of personal estate, \$343,020; value of real estate, \$766,110; total valuation, \$1,109,130; rate of taxation \$6.50 per \$1,000.

## SOUTHBOROUGH.

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BY DEXTER NEWTON, ESQ.

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## CHAPTER I.

LOCATION AND INCORPORATION — SOIL AND SURFACE — WATERS — WAYS —  
PRODUCTIONS — AGRICULTURE — MANUFACTURES AND MECHANICAL INDUSTRIES.

THIS town is situated in the extreme easterly part of Worcester County, about twenty-eight miles from the State House, and about sixteen miles from the Court House in Worcester. The Town House in Southborough is located at a bearing of about  $7^{\circ} 5'$  south of due west from the State House. The town is skirted on three sides by Middlesex County. It has Marlborough on the north, Framingham and Ashland on the east, Ashland and Hopkinton on the south, Westborough and Northborough on the west. Formerly most of the town of Southborough belonged to Marlborough, and was then called "Stony Brook," probably so named from a stream of water which still bears that name. That part which lies north of Stony Brook was also called "Cow Commons," from the fact that it was used by the inhabitants of Marlborough for a common pasture.

The town of Southborough was incorporated July 6, old style, or July 17, new style, 1727, in response to the following petition, to wit:—

*"To the Hon<sup>ble</sup> William Dummer Esq Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief, the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Council and House of Representatives at their session in May 1727:*

"The petition of us the subscribers inhabitants of the Southerly part of the town of Marlborough Humbly sheweth That whereas Divine Providence which appoints the bounds and habitations of all men hath so ordered our lots or at least most of us that we are at such a distance from the place of Public Worship that ourselves but especially our aged and infirm together with our women and little ones cannot comfortably endure the necessary travel that they are forced unto for the attaining an opportunity at the place of Public Worship, and likewise others whose lots although not at present so difficult as the other aforesaid. yet considering that it is but a point of christian duty and charity to compassionate the circumstances of such, and having also obtained a vote



of the town of Marlborough in our favor to be set off as a separate Town. by such bounds as is described by the vote of Town and the Plan herewith annexed, and likewise for a further manifestation of the aforesaid Town of Marlborough's good will towards us in the matter have by their vote directed their Selectmen to sign or order an assignment with us as petitioners to this Honorable Court upon the consideration of the whole we have some reason to think Providence favors the matter and have hope of a Blessing. Wherefore we humbly petition this Honorable Court that we the Inhabitants of the aforesaid southerly part of the Town of Marlborough being about Fifty families already settled with some preparation for more, may be set off by such bounds as described by the aforesaid vote of the Town for setting us off and more fully set forth in the plan herewith annexed and with the land may be incorporated into a Town and have and enjoy all immunities Privileges Rights and power as other Towns within this Province have and do by law enjoy, and we your humble Petitioners as in Duty Bound shall ever pray."

The above pursuant to a vote of the town of Marlborough, June 12, 1727, directing the major part of the selectmen, or the whole of them, to sign a petition to the General Court with the inhabitants of "Stoney Brook," being the southerly part of the town, for a corporation of the same. Joseph Stratin, John Sherman, Eliazer Howe, Samuel Brigham, Abraham Eager, selectmen.

Names of Petitioners: William Ward, William Johnson, John Bellows, David Fay, John Woods, Daniel Taylor, Nathan Brigham, Nathaniel Joslen, John Mathis, Jr., David Bruse, William Johnson, Jr., Jonathan Witt, John Amsden, Jon<sup>a</sup> Newton, Joseph Woods, Roger Bruse, Othniel Taylor, Daniel Newton, Isaac Bellows, Samuel Bellows, Robert Horn, John Newton, Joseph Ball, Abram Newton, Ephraim Newton, Benjamin Newton, Caleb Witherbee, Samuel Lyseom, Eliazer Bellows, John Belknap, Isaac Newton, Joseph Witherbee, Samuel Gibbs, Jon. Bellows, Timothy Johnson, David Woods, Zachariah Moses, Benjamin Mixer, John Bellows, Moses Johnson.

From its local situation in the mother town it was named Southborough. Marlborough, the mother town has had three children; to wit, Westborough, Southborough and Hudson. Her grandchild, Northborough, is the issue of Westborough. At the time of the incorporation of Southborough it contained about 8,822 acres. On the 7th day of March, 1786, in response to a petition signed by the following persons, who resided on the premises, viz., Daniel Fay, Elisha Bemis, Phineas Bemis, John Leonard and Lydia Pierce, that part of Framingham, then known as "Fiddle Neck," and which now forms the southerly portion of Southborough, containing about 300 acres, was by an act of the legislature set to Southborough. May 5, 1835, by an act of the legislature, about sixteen acres were taken from the formerly supposed area of Southborough and added to Westborough, thereby putting an end to a long contest between the two towns in regard to their boundary lines.

March 24, 1843, by an act of the legislature, and in response to the petition of Willard Newton, Willis Newton, Henry B. Newton, William F. Newton, David Temple and Daniel Walker, that part of Southborough lying north of

Monument No. 3, near the house formerly owned by Barnabas Brigham, and Monument No. 5, near "Tunnecog Bridge," containing about eighty-two acres, was set to Marlborough. Southborough now contains about 9,024 acres, according to the old surveys, including roads, common, cemeteries and land under water. Its surface is somewhat undulating, and its scenery delightful and varied. The soil is a strong, deep, gravelly loam, rich and very productive. The land is somewhat stony, especially in the southerly portion of the town. The principal rock is granite. In the western part and near Fayville there are numerous springs which contain large quantities of iron.

The wood consists chiefly of oak, walnut, chestnut, maple and birch. The following are the names of its familiar hills, meadows and streams of water: Wolf-pen Hill, Break-neck Hill, Pine Hill, Oak Hill, Clean Hill, Mount Victory, Troublesome Meadow, Handkerchief Meadow, Angle Brook, Deer-foot Brook, Pancake Brook, Stony Brook and Sudbury River. Stony Brook, having its source in the westerly part of Southborough, meanders in an easterly direction through the central portion thereof, and falls into Sudbury River in Framingham. This last-named stream has its source in Westborough, and forms the southern boundary of Southborough. Its thread divides this town from Hopkinton. The two latter streams afford considerable water-power. Angle Brook, a tributary of Stony Brook, has its source in Marlborough. Numerous town and county roads of superior quality checker the town. Her many bridges are mostly of stone. The inhabitants of the town, in her early days, were principally employed in agriculture. The sturdy yeomanry of the town have laid low many of her forests, and her men of energy and perseverance have, through the lapse of her past years, converted many of her once rugged hills and valleys into beautiful fields, orchards and gardens, which bring forth abundant crops for man and beast.

This town now contains several superior farms, and there are 179 in all of from 10 to 200 acres. By statistical comparison of farm products, including her great yield of excellent fruit, Southborough leads all the towns but one in the Commonwealth. The farms are nearly all in a high state of cultivation, and are mostly fenced with stone walls. The buildings are of good architecture, and are, generally, kept in good repair. Her agricultural products in 1875 amounted to \$197,365. The farmers formerly produced butter, veal, and beef, for market; now, their energies are largely devoted to the production of milk and fruit. Between ten and twelve hundred gallons of milk are sent by them daily to Boston. A few make butter. The noted "Deer-foot Farm" is situated in the westerly part of this town. The proprietor, Mr. Edward Burnett, is a graduate of Harvard College. His "Excelsior" butter is manufactured on the most scientific principles, from the milk of pure Jersey cows, and commands the highest prices. The superior grazing fields of Southborough afford a peculiarly rich and agreeable flavor to the milk and butter. The inhabitants of this town have long been, and are now, generally, in comfortable circum-



stances. The number of persons fully supported by the town, during the eighteen years immediately preceding 1878, averaged yearly only about five. The following statistics, from the Assessors' Report in 1879, inform concerning the wealth of the citizens, and other matters of interest: Said report shows that there are in town 924 cows, 16 oxen, 330 horses, 388½ houses. The amount of property taxed is as follows, viz.: personal, \$272,738; real, \$1,003,817;—total, \$1,276,615; number of polls taxed, 538. By statistical comparison it will be obvious that there is much wealth here—far exceeding, *per capita*, that in most other towns. Although a large portion of the inhabitants, in former years, were employed in agricultural pursuits, we find that there has been a commendable degree of interest manifested in other important enterprises. There have been in town, since its incorporation, at least 6 grist-mills, 3 saw-mills, 1 wire-factory, 1 carpet-factory, 1 flour-mill, 2 sash and blind factories, 1 peg-mill, 3 extensive tanneries, 1 currier shop, 1 brush-factory, 2 brick kilns, 3 cotton and wool factories, 6 boot and shoe factories, 1 bonnet factory, and 1 carriage-factory. This town contains 4 villages; viz., Southborough Centre, Fayville, Cordaville, and Southville. Fayville is situated in the easterly, and Cordaville and Southville in the southerly portions thereof. The Boston and Albany Railroad extends through Cordaville and Southville; the Boston, Clinton, Fitchburg, and New Bedford Railroad, now leased to the Old Colony Railroad Company, extends through Southborough Centre and Fayville, and connects with the Boston and Albany Railroad at South Framingham. In about the year 1845 Southborough seemingly took upon herself a new life, in consequence of the sudden influx of manufacturers. Extensive boot and shoe factories were built in the south part of the town, and, as a consequence, the beautiful village of Southville quickly sprang into existence. John Hartt & Co. and Newton & Hartt manufactured boots and shoes there extensively and successfully for many years, giving employment to a large number of workmen. Newton & Hartt still continue the business there, and, in good times, employ from one to two hundred hands; and their annual sales of boots and shoes amount to nearly two hundred thousand dollars. Soon after the erection of those factories, Milton H. Sanford, Esq., purchased a large tract of land in the south part of the town, and in 1846–7 he erected thereon a large stone factory, for the manufacture of cotton and woolen goods. He also built thereon many dwelling-houses, and other buildings. This thriving village he named Cordaville, in honor of his wife, Cordelia. The same factory was burnt October 31st, 1855. Two persons lost their lives in consequence of the fire, and others were injured. On the same spot he erected the present stone factory. He manufactured very extensively various kinds of cotton and woolen fabrics, and jute blankets. He became very wealthy. In 1864 he sold the real and personal property to a stock company, called the "Cordaville Mills Company," Franklin Haven, Esq., being president, John H. Stevenson, Esq., treasurer, and Judge Thomas Russell, clerk. In 1871 said



property was sold, by auction, to Adolphus Merriam, Esq., of Framingham. For some years large quantities of goods were there manufactured by Merriam & Wilson.

March 9, 1876, a stock company was formed under the corporate name of "Cordaville Woolen Company," — Hubbard Wilson, Esq., president and superintendent; Adolphus Merriam, Esq., treasurer; and Mr. Joseph Merriam, clerk. This company now manufactures blankets, satinets, and flannels, employ about eighty operatives, and their sales amount yearly to about \$100,000. In 1860 one Kidder commenced the manufacture of brick near Fayville. After his death the property was owned, and the business continued, by Ball & Holman. They were succeeded by the Framingham Brick Company. By the aid of steam power and improved machinery, the latter company are able to manufacture, yearly, one and a half millions of brick. Fayville was so named in honor of a large portion of its former business men—to wit: Col. Dexter Fay and his two brothers, Col. Francis B. Fay and Hon. Sullivan Fay, Col. Artemas Fay and his brother, Elijah Fay. Col. Dexter Fay commenced business as a butcher. He afterwards built a small store about 14 feet square. His trade so increased that he had to enlarge his store from time to time. It became a famous place for trade, and, eventually, the yearly sales therein for many years exceeded \$125,000. His brothers formerly were more or less interested with him in this business; so, latterly, were his sons, Emory B. Fay, Caleb T. Fay, and Sylvester C. Fay. Col. Dexter Fay was also a noted cattle broker, and was a constant attendant at the Brighton Cattle Market for over 40 years. Col. Francis B. Fay, after having filled many important offices in town and county, moved to Chelsea, Mass. He became a very successful commission merchant, was several times in his lifetime honored by a seat in both branches of the Legislature, and was once elected representative to Congress. He was the first Mayor of Chelsea. Hon. Sullivan Fay was conveyancer, settled many estates, was clerk of the Agricultural Branch Railroad Company, was elected to both branches of the Legislature, and was president of a Medical College in Worcester, Mass. Col. Artemas Fay was a manufacturer of boots, shoes, and bonnets. Elijah Fay was a currier. The phrenological poet once wrote concerning the organ of weight in the head of Col. Dexter Fay: "This organ is very large in your friend, Col. Fay — Col. Dexter, of course. There are many of that name on the records of fame — there is Francis, of Boston, in the mercantile trade; and Artemas, here at home, by whom bonnets are made."

In 1872 Curtis Newton and Dexter Newton, having previously purchased the large estate of the late Col. Dexter Fay, erected, with the assistance of a few public-spirited neighbors, the spacious shoe factory in Fayville. It was leased to Allan D. Howe, Esq., whose monthly pay-roll, for a long time, amounted to over \$6,000. It is now leased to Crain, Rising & Co., of Boston, the said Howe being the General Superintendent and Purchaser of Supplies. The

amount manufactured yearly is about \$250,000, and they employ some 250 operatives. In consequence of the erection of this factory, Fayville has nearly doubled its inhabitants and tenements.

In 1875 the whole amount of goods manufactured in Southborough was \$442,950.

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## CHAPTER II.

POPULATION—FIRST TOWN MEETING—CHURCH HISTORY—EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS  
—FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY—BENEFACTICENT CITIZENS—NOTED SCHOLARS AND  
GRADUATES—THE TOWN IN THE HISTORY OF FREEDOM—THE REVOLUTION  
AND THE REBELLION.

THE number of inhabitants in town at the time of its incorporation is not positively known. There were about fifty families, and probably about two hundred and eighty inhabitants. In 1757, it appears that the number of enrolled men was seventy-five, and the number of minute-men fifty-six. In 1790, the number of the inhabitants was eight hundred and thirty-seven. At the close of each subsequent decade, the number of inhabitants was as follows, viz.:—1800, 871; 1810, 926; 1820, 1,030; 1830, 1,080; 1840, 1,145; 1850, 1,347; 1860, 1,854; 1870, 2,135.

Of the names of the inhabitants, the Newtons, Fays, and Brighams have always predominated. The number of Newtons born in town since its incorporation, is four hundred and forty; and the number of Fays born in town during same time, three hundred and thirty-two.

By order of the General Court, the first town meeting was held August 28, 1727, at the house of Timothy Brigham, which stood where is now located the St. Mark's school-house. William Johnson was moderator. The first town-meeting, under warrant of selectmen, was held March, 1728: James Newton, moderator; Moses Newton, Seth Bellows, Doe Bellows, Doe Mathe's, and Captain Ward, were selectmen. The principal business of this meeting, besides the choice of officers, and of several town meetings which followed, was to arrange for procuring a minister of "good conversation to preach God's word," and to devise ways and means to build a meeting-house. Money for both purposes was promptly raised. The first meeting-house built, was fifty by forty feet, and twenty feet posts. Three hundred pounds, or \$1,000, was appropriated for same. It was built in 1727-8. This house lasted seventy-nine years, at the end of which time it was sold for \$76.99, and taken down. It was located a few feet south of the house, now owned by the Pilgrim Evangelical Society, and on a portion of the land given by the inhabitants of Marlborough to the inhabitants of this section thereof, previous to the incorporation



of Southborough (said land was given for a "Training Field, Buryal Place, and a Meeting-house." In 1806, December 17, the second church edifice was dedicated. The cost of same was \$7,778. The pews sold for \$2,658 above the appraisal. In 1856 said meeting-house was conveyed by the First Parish Society, to said Pilgrim Evangelical Society, and by the latter it was remodeled and fitted up in its present modern style at a cost of about \$13,000, and dedicated. In 1828, September 10, the Baptist society dedicated the brick church which is now occupied as a dwelling. For want of sufficient room in the church, the dedicatory services were held in the grove near "Mount Vickory." The present Baptist church was built in 1845. The first church of the Pilgrim Evangelical Society was built in 1832. It is now the high school house. The Episcopal church was dedicated Aug. 15, 1862. The Second Congregational Church, located in Southville, was built in 1872. The Catholic church, located between Cordaville and Southville was built in 1879.

The first minister settled by the town was Rev. Nathan Stone. He was ordained, Oct. 21, 1730, and continued their pastor until his death, May 31, 1781. June 1, 1791, Rev. Samuel Sumner was settled. He was dismissed agreeably to his request, Dec. 1, 1797. In 1799, October 9, Rev. Jeroboam Parker, a native of Southborough, was ordained and became their pastor. He was dismissed at his own request in 1832. The First Parish Society afterwards settled Rev. John D. Sweet, Rev. William Lord, Rev. Mr. Alden, and Rev. Mr. Barnard. The salary first paid to Mr. Stone was £120 or \$400, and thirty cords of good wood. In 1734 his salary was raised to £150, and thirty cords of good wood. Only one religious society existed in town until 1825. The Baptist society have settled Rev. Jonathan Forbush, Rev. Abiasaph Sampson, Rev. W. Morse, Rev. Aaron Haynes, Rev. M. Ball, Rev. John Alden. They have had several acting pastors, the present one being Rev. W. K. Davey. The Pilgrim Evangelical Society was organized Feb. 17, 1831, and have settled Rev. Walter Follett, Rev. Jacob Cummings, Rev. E. M. Elwood, Rev. G. D. Bates, Rev. W. J. Breed, Rev. John Colby, and Rev. H. M. Holmes. Rev. Alanson Rawson was acting pastor from April 28, 1843, to April 2, 1852. Rev. Andrew Bigelow, D. D., was acting pastor from April 1, 1874, to April 1, 1875. The Episcopal Society have had for rectors, Rev. Charles Wingate, Rev. A. C. Patterson, Rev. R. Lowell, and Rev. J. I. T. Coolidge, D. D. The Second Congregational Society have settled Rev. C. A. Stone, and have now for acting pastor Rev. John Le Bosquett.

The first appropriation made by Southborough for teachers, was in 1732; viz., to Timothy Johnson, six pounds; and to Samuel Bellows, four pounds ten shillings. Subsequently, for several years, Solomon Ward was employed to teach in rotation the four schools located in different sections of the town. Southborough maintained but four schools until 1837. The citizens of Southborough have ever manifested a great interest in education.

In 1859, Henry H. Peters, Esq., a wealthy citizen, feeling a deep interest in



the education of the youth, and having a desire that the scholars of Southborough should have as good advantages for obtaining an education as was enjoyed by the scholars in the neighboring towns, donated the present high school house, nicely finished and furnished, and the land connected therewith, to the town, on condition that it should be used for a high school, to be taught by a master qualified to teach the branches usually taught in a high school, and be kept at least eight months in each year. The town accepted the very liberal donation at a regular town meeting; and as a token of their appreciation of his generosity, they directed that it be called the "Peters High School house." The citizens, generally, have manifested great satisfaction with the good results of the school. They have been willing to appropriate a liberal sum, yearly, for the support of this as well as for the other nine schools. The school committee, in 1878, expended for schools, \$5,854. In 1852 a public free library was established. The opening of the same was properly celebrated. A public meeting was held in the Town Hall, February 12. The occasion was enlivened by speeches, songs, and music. A. L. Hobart, M. D., of Southborough, made the principal address. The following extract from his address will quite fully explain the character of the preliminary measures incident to its establishment:

"Col. Francis B. Fay, in the fullness of his soul and the liberality of his spirit, conceived in his heart to do a good thing unto the inhabitants of the good old town of Southborough, which gave him birth; and so, unsolicited, and of his own good-will and pleasure, he thrust his hand deep into his pocket, and drawing forth five hundred pieces of silver (\$500), held them up before the eyes of the inhabitants of this town, while he thus spoke: 'Fellow-citizens! Fellow-townsmen! I was born, and nurtured, and rocked, and reared in your midst, I am one of you, and you are dear unto me. And now as you are dear unto me, and as my heart and my hand are drawn towards you in affection, and as the enlightenment and elevation of your minds are things near my heart; therefore, if all together, or any one of you, will give a like sum, I will give these five hundred pieces of silver to form the nucleus of a Town Library, which shall be free for all the inhabitants of the town, to use for their improvement, and for their children's children forever.' The town appropriated the other five hundred dollars, and directed that as a token of their esteem for the generous donor, it should be called the 'Fay Library.'"

In 1870, April 20, Col. Fay donated to the town the additional sum of one thousand dollars, for the benefit of the library. There is now a fund of fifteen hundred dollars in the hands of the trustees of the library; the interest of which, with various other items contributed and appropriated, enable the trustees to expend about \$200 annually for books. There are now in the library 3,901 volumes. The people of Southborough have great cause to hold in fond remembrance the names of the aforesaid donors; and, not only we, but in future years, full many a son and daughter who shall inhabit this land, read books, and learn in this school,—looking back, perhaps, through time's long vista, will also exultingly claim these donors as their immortal benefactors. In

1865 the St. Mark's School was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth, and was founded for the classical education of boys.

Its course of studies is prepared with the purpose of giving a thorough preparation for admission to the universities and colleges of the country. It is a school of the Episcopal Church, and its order and management are in conformity with the principals and spirit of the church. Its scholars number about fifty and are required to board at the institution. It is said to be one of the most thorough and best disciplined schools in the State. The establishment of this school and the erection of the beautiful Episcopal church are the results of the great enterprise and perseverance of our honored and esteemed fellow-citizen, Dr. Joseph Burnett. The beautiful appearance of the centre village is largely due to his benevolence, influence and taste. In 1840, the town built its first town house. Previous to that time the town meetings were held in the church of the First Parish Society. Said town house cost about \$4,000. It was burnt in 1869. Without delay the inhabitants proceeded to erect another. The present handsome, substantial and commodious brick town house was built in 1869-70, at a cost, including fixtures and furniture, of about \$30,000. The building committee, consisting of Dr. Joseph Burnett, Dexter Newton, Dr. J. Henry Robinson, Franklin Este and Curtis Hyde, delivered the keys thereof to the selectmen April 20, 1870. In 1824, the young men organized a lyceum. Hon. Francis B. Fay was president of the same for several years. This is said to be one of the first lyceums ever formed in this vicinity. One of the most exciting debates participated in by the then young America, was "Is an untruth ever justifiable?" Disputants appointed in the affirmative were Peter Fay and Blake Parker; negative Joel Burnett and Brigham Witherbee. The discussion waxed warm. The disputants, pro and con, fought the battle inch by inch during the allotted time. Question was finally decided on its merits, in the negative. This lyceum accomplished much good.

Another lyceum was formed in 1842. Its members at one time numbered forty-four. Many momentous questions were considered. Interesting and instructive free lectures through their exertion were furnished to the public.

Southborough has raised many noble men and women. Several distinguished scholars. The following is a list of those reared in town, who have availed themselves of the benefits of a college education; viz., Jeroboam Parker, graduated at Harvard in 1797, became a minister; Nathan Johnson, graduated at Yale in 1802, Judge of Court of Common Pleas; Sherman Johnson, graduated at Yale in 1802, minister; Luther Angier, graduated at Amherst in 1833, minister; Marshall B. Angier, graduated at Yale in 1834, minister; Henry M. Parker, graduated at Harvard in 1839, teacher; Joel Burnett, graduated at Harvard Medical in —, physician; Waldo I. Burnett, graduated at Harvard Medical in 1849, naturalist; Edward Burnett, graduated at Harvard in 1871, farmer; Harry Burnett, graduated at Harvard in 1873, chemist;



Waldo Burnett, graduated at Harvard in 1875, student; Clarence Thompson, graduated at Amherst in 1874, civil engineer; George E. Brewer, graduated at Amherst in 1874, teacher.

Jeroboam Parker, mentioned above, was for many years the minister in Southborough. Joel Burnett was a noted physician in the town, was particularly interested in her schools, and was greatly honored and respected. His son, Waldo I. Burnett, was a zealous student, and became a distinguished naturalist. By the Boston Society of Natural History he was elected curator of entomology. In successive years he gained many of the prizes offered by said society. In the winter of 1851, he delivered at the Medical College in Augusta, Ga., a course of lectures in microscopic anatomy. In 1852, he prepared the essay which received the prize from the American Medical Association. He died of consumption July 1, 1854, in the 26th year of his age. From an address concerning his life and writings, delivered before the Boston Society of Natural History, July 19, 1854, by Dr. Jeffries Wyman, is taken the following extract: "We cannot but sensibly feel that in his death we have lost an associate of no ordinary talents; we can point to no other member of our society, and not more than one other naturalist in our country who has given such proofs of zeal and industry, and who, in so short a life, has accomplished so large an amount of scientific labor. Had he been spared to future years, we cannot but feel the assurance that he would have acquired for himself a far higher place and a still more honorable name in the annals of science. Let us cherish his memory and profit by his example."

The records of the town show that the people have always taken a forward rank in the cause of freedom.

Capt. John Taplin went in command of a company of forty-nine men on the Crown Point Expedition in 1756; was out from February 18 to December 20.

Capt. Aaron Fay commanded a company sent for the reduction of Canada, and was out from March to November, 1758.

Capt. John Taplin was also out in this campaign. A number of Southborough men were out in all the campaigns of the last French and Indian war.

Dilenton Johnson was at Fort William Henry when it capitulated, Aug. 9, 1757, and was exposed to the Indian barbarities of that terrible day. Elijah Reed and Joshua Newton also of Southborough, were in that battle.

In 1765, in town meeting, the following unanimous vote of instruction was given to their representative, Ezra Taylor, Esq.: "That you would in the most effectual and loyal manner firmly assert and lawfully maintain the inherent rights of the Province, that posterity may know that if we must be slaves we do not choose by our own acts to destroy ourselves and willingly entail slavery on them."

Capt. Josiah Fay's company of fifty-six minute-men, who were disciplined and supported at the expense of the town, marched to Lexington and Concord, April 19, 1775. Every able-bodied male citizen sixteen years old and upward



was armed according to law. They were required to be in constant readiness to repel any attack of the enemy. In town meeting April 29, 1861, on motion of Sylvester C. Fay, Esq., it was voted unanimously "that the town is ready to respond to the proclamations of the President with every able-bodied citizen and every dollar, if necessary." The town furnished two hundred and nineteen brave and patriotic men — being thirty-three more than enough to fill her quota under every call of the President during the great Rebellion. Seventeen of those men died in the service of their country, and these names appear on the beautiful monument erected to their memory. Said monument, erected on the common in Southborough Centre, is of Fitzwilliam granite, and was built by E. F. Meany of Boston, from a design of A. R. Esty, Esq. It was dedicated Jan. 1st, 1867. It is twenty feet high. On the south (front) side are inscribed the words "Erected by the Citizens of Southborough"; on the east "In Memoriam"; on the north "Our Country's Defenders"; and on the west "Rebellion, 1861."

"Patriots are here in freedom's battle slain,  
Men whose short lives were closed with scarce a stain;  
Men, lovers of our race, whose labors gave  
Their names a memory that defies the grave."

This monument cost \$1,613.50, and was paid for mostly by subscription. Some of the money, however, was contributed by various assemblies and societies. Henry H. Peters, Esq., subscribed \$500; Dr. Joseph Burnett, \$100; Curtis Newton, E. D. Rockwood, Peter Fay and S. N. Thompson each \$25, and ninety-two other persons contributed smaller sums.

This town has a very perfect record of her soldiers who enlisted in the late war. To William P. Willson, Esq., great credit is due for his alacrity and perseverance in its preparation and completion.

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S O U T H B R I D G E .

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BY REV. ABIJAH P. MARVIN.

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## CHAPTER I.

FORMATION OF THE TOWN — PHYSICAL ASPECTS — INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT —  
WATER-POWER — MEETING-HOUSES AND PARISHES — CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY — PASTORAL LIST — BAPTIST SOCIETY — MANUFACTURES.

THE town of Southbridge was taken from the towns of Charlton, Dudley and Sturbridge, and was incorporated in 1816. The larger part of the tract north of the Quinebaug formerly belonged to Charlton. The part south of the river was divided nearly in half by the two latter towns. The inhabitants, in early times, were obliged to go long distances to attend public worship and town meetings. Belonging to different municipalities and religious societies, they had but slight bonds of union before the time when the mills on the Quinebaug began to form a centre of business. The town is bounded as follows: On the north by Charlton, on the east by Charlton and Dudley, on the south by Woodstock, and on the west by Sturbridge. The centre of the town is in latitude  $42^{\circ} 5'$ , and the distance from the court-house in Worcester is seventeen and one-half miles. Formerly the great route of travel from Worcester to the south-west was through Charlton and Sturbridge. After 1825 it went through Southbridge. The connection with the shire town is now by the New England Railroad to Webster, and thence by the Norwich and Worcester line. There is direct railway connection with Boston through Webster, Blackstone, &c., by the New England Railway.

Like other towns formed since the early settlements were made, Southbridge is comparatively small in size and irregular in shape. The southern line is straight, being on the Connecticut border. The lines between Sturbridge, Charlton and Dudley are run to suit individual convenience, to some extent, and are therefore angular. The number of square miles in the town is about nineteen, and the number of acres is twelve thousand two hundred and eleven.

The surface of the town is much broken by hills and valleys. The hills rise

northward and southward from the valley of Quinebaug River, some of them gradually and some with abrupt and rugged sides. Hatchet Hill is a thousand and sixteen feet above the level of the sea, and the summit furnishes an extensive prospect. The main river is the Quinebaug, which comes in from Sturbridge on the west, and runs across the township north of the middle in an easterly and south-easterly course. The river is fed by Globe, Cady and McKinstrey brooks on the north, and Hatchet, Cohasse and Lebanon brooks on the south, all of which empty within the limits of the town. The valleys of these streams greatly diversify the scenery. A traveler ascending by the banks of the river seems to be entering a *cul-de-sac* until he emerges on the west. The bed of the river below the Globe Village Pond appears like a deep gorge, with the northern and southern horizon shut out from view. But plateaus and gently rising grounds on the south, furnish sites for the villages of Southbridge and Globe Village. From the lofty hill at the north of Globe Village one can look down on a hive of industry, and see nearly every factory and church and dwelling in Southbridge Centre and Globe Village, which, by gradual approach, now form one large and flourishing town.

As stated above, the territory now comprised in the bounds of Southbridge was occupied by settlers long before the time of its incorporation. The settlers were generally farmers, but there were men engaged in other industries than cultivating the land, as there must be in all communities. As early as 1733, November 29, it was voted to give Moses Marcy fifty acres of land, on condition of his setting up a grist-mill. The Marcy family was prominent in Charlton, and took a leading part in the organization of Southbridge. The Hon. William L. Marcy, Governor of New York, and Secretary of State under President Pierce, was a member of this family.

It appears that a meeting-house was built in 1797, but it belonged to persons of various denominations. Congregationalists, Baptists, Methodists and Universalists were joint-owners. In 1801 a "Poll Parish," as it was styled, was incorporated. This was in distinction from a territorial parish, which included all the inhabitants within certain bounds. A poll parish included only those who joined it. This was the nucleus of a town, as about ninety persons, with their families, formed a distinct organization called the Second Religious Society in Charlton. They became accustomed, in this way, to associate together, and thus were led into the further union of a town organization. For some cause unknown to outsiders, this section was named *Honest Town*.

The Congregational Church, styled the Second Congregational Church of Charlton, was formed in 1801, September 16, with twenty-one members,—eight men and thirteen women. They made use of the meeting-house, and, as those who sympathized with them were more numerous than the members of any other denomination, had a proportionate share of influence in supplying the pulpit. During sixteen years there were seventy-four ministers on the



ground in succession. This was continued until 1816, when the other denominations united and bought the right and interest of the Congregationalists in the meeting-house. At this time the Congregationalists began holding public worship by themselves, and on the 16th of December, 1816, the Rev. Jason Park was ordained as first pastor of the church. The other denominations held the meeting-house in common several years longer. The name of the church was now changed to Congregational Church of Southbridge. Services were held four or five years previous to 1822 in a hall in the house built for a parsonage and place of worship.

As late as 1811 there were on the site of the present village of Southbridge only a few dwelling-houses and the small meeting-house above mentioned. In 1820, four years after the incorporation of the town, the population was only one thousand and sixty-six, and this was scattered over the whole township. From that date the increase of population has been steady, in consequence of the use made of the great water-power furnished by the Quinebaug. By means of dams and reservoirs a steady flow is secured through the season. Natural ponds have been raised, so that their storage of water is greatly increased. The lowlands in Holland, Wales and other towns have been flooded, and thus made tributary to the industry of the people living on the banks of the river, through Sturbridge, Southbridge and Dudley, as well as towns in Connecticut. In old times the river would sometimes become so low in dry seasons that it would hardly turn the wheel of a grist-mill part of the day, whereas now some of the largest establishments in the county have an unfailing supply of water-power. The use of this power by skill and industry has built up several villages, the most important of which is Southbridge, including its neighboring or consolidated community, Globe Village. The development of business on that part of the river within the bounds of Southbridge will be treated on subsequent pages.

This town, on account of its comparatively recent origin, has no municipal history in connection with the old Indian and French wars, nor with the heroic strife and sacrifice of the Revolution; but the fathers of the town were descended from those who had borne the strain and trial of all the conflicts through which the colonists had passed in preceding generations. Many men living on this soil when it belonged to the mother-towns were in the battles of King George's wars, 1745-63, and in the battles of the War of Independence; but their names are on the muster-rolls as part of the quota of Charlton, Dudley and Sturbridge.

It will be convenient to divide the religious history of Southbridge into two parts, having some regard to the order of time. The first part will bring the notices of the Orthodox and Baptist churches down to a comparatively recent date. A sketch of the rise and increase of business in the town will follow, after which the ecclesiastical narrative will be resumed.

The house of worship used by the Congregational Church was erected in

1821, and dedicated Jan. 1, 1822. A small fund had been provided for the church at an earlier date, the income of which had been used for the support of preaching. This fund was now applied to the building of the new sanctuary. When dedicated, the sermon was preached by the Rev. Jason Park, the pastor of the church. The house was remodeled in 1839, and dedicated anew, September 5, when Rev. Eber Carpenter, the pastor, delivered a sermon, and an original hymn, written by Mrs. Sigourney, was sung. The house was again remodeled, and re-dedicated Sept. 24, 1869. The sermon was delivered by Rev. E. L. Jaggar, pastor from 1869 to 1872. It is said that the house occupied by Dr. Hartwell, where the meetings of this church were first held, was built by Major Calvin Ammidown, in behalf of the society, its design being to furnish a parsonage and a temporary hall for meetings. The present meeting-house is well filled, and a need is beginning to be felt for a larger audience-room. The pastors since the dismissal of Mr. Park have been as follows: Rev. Henry J. Lamb, ordained June 6, 1833, and dismissed April 25, 1835. The Rev. Eber Carpenter was installed July 21, 1835, and dismissed July 21, 1864. On account of impaired health, Mr. Carpenter was released from pastoral duties from 1853 to 1857. The installation of his successor, Rev. Edwin B. Palmer, took place Dec. 27, 1864, and, after a pastorate of about four and a half years, he was dismissed, May 3, 1869. Rev. E. L. Jaggar was installed Oct. 14, 1869, and dismissed Aug. 6, 1872. The settled ministry of Rev. J. E. Fullerton began July 22, 1873, and terminated Oct. 31, 1876. The present pastor, Rev. Joseph Danielson, was installed June 6, 1877.

The following members have been deacons: Asa Walker and Daniel Morse, both elected in 1801; Jason Morse, George Sumner, Henry Haynes, Josiah Hayward, Elbridge G. Harding, Jonathan Cutting, and Samuel L. Morse. The present deacons are Samuel M. Lane, elected in 1851, and William P. Plimpton, in 1875. The superintendent of the Sabbath school is C. D. Munroe. A few lines taken from the Covenant, used at the organization of the church, will give the fundamental basis which they hold in common with all Evangelical Christians: "We, the members of this church, do acknowledge and assert the Lord Jehovah — Father, Son, and Holy Ghost — as the only true God, the fountain of our being, and the source of our happiness; and devote ourselves to Him in the bonds of an everlasting covenant, to serve and glorify Him supremely. We do acknowledge and profess that the salvation of man is wholly from the free, unmerited grace of God, and is the result of sincere repentance of sin, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that these graces are wrought in the soul by the 'Spirit of God.'" Six hundred and fifty-two persons have been members of the church, by confession or by letter. The present membership is a little over two hundred.

The Baptists in Southbridge were joint owners of the old "Poll Parish" meeting-house, above mentioned. Services were held in it occasionally by the Baptists, according to their right in the house. In 1816 the town was incor-



porated, and, as stated before, the Second Congregational Church of Charlton changed into the Congregational Church of Southbridge. The "Congregational Religious Society of Southbridge," acting with the Congregational Church, was incorporated by act of the Legislature, Dec. 13, 1816. In connection with these changes, and perhaps growing out of them, the Baptists held a meeting, May 1, 1816, in the hall of Ammidown Hotel, for the purpose of organization. A constitution was adopted for the "First Baptist Society in Southbridge." One hundred and twenty-three persons signed the constitution. A council was held, Jan. 28, 1817, by whom a Baptist Church was recognized, consisting of twenty-six members. The Congregationalists having sold out their interest in the old meeting-house to the Baptists, Methodists, and Universalists, the Baptists now held their meetings in it, though the Universalists occasionally used it for public worship. The first Baptist minister was the Rev. George Angell, whose salary was three hundred dollars per annum and firewood. His pastorate was closed by his decease, Feb. 18, 1827. His ministry was successful in strengthening the church. In March, 1823, the society was organized under an act of the Legislature, by which it was incorporated. A new bell was purchased the same year. The Rev. Addison Parker, his successor, was ordained Aug. 18, 1827, and remained till December, 1832, when he was regularly dismissed, and became the pastor of the church in Sturbridge. He was followed by Rev. David C. Bolles, who was installed May 12, 1833, and remained two years. In 1837 the meeting-house became the sole property of the Baptist Society, the interest of the other joint owners having been purchased. The house was repaired at an expense of \$1,415. The interior was arranged in accordance with the modern style, and slips took the place of the old-fashioned square pews. The deeds of the pews "limited the kind of preaching, and declared that it shall be of the same belief and practice as the Baptist in olden times." The Rev. Joseph G. Binney was installed Aug. 23, 1837, and continued two years, when the state of his health required a dissolution of the pastoral relation. He has since become well known in connection with the very prosperous Baptist mission in Burmah. In 1837 the Rev. Sewall S. Cutting became the fifth pastor of the church. Four years later the proprietors of the meeting-house organized themselves into a corporation, which took the title of the "Southbridge Baptist Meeting-House Association." This action was followed by the organization of a new church, under the name of the "Central Baptist Church," in 1842. This was effected by the withdrawal of a majority of the members of the old church, who united in forming the new church. The matter of recognizing the enterprise was referred to a council, before whom the old church came and presented their objections. After hearing the committee, the council deemed it expedient to recognize the new church. This was on the 12th of October, 1842. The Rev. Mr. Cutting, whose sympathies were with the new organization, received an invitation to become the pastor. He was released from the First Church, and became the first pastor of the new church.



The First Church then called the Rev. C. P. Grosvenor to be their minister. However, according to a statement in the "Southbridge Journal," "the work of sustaining two Baptist churches was too much of a tax, and the old church succumbed to its lively rival, some of the members going into that, and others to the Methodist and Congregational churches. The society remained unchanged," and now the First Baptist Society and the Central Baptist Church work together in harmony.

Mr. Cutting remained the pastor until June, 1845, when he resigned. Since then he has been prominent, in the denomination to which he belongs, as an editor of Baptist periodicals, as a college professor, and as Secretary of the Baptist Home Missionary Society. The Rev. Timothy G. Freeman was the second minister of the Central Church, but remained only two years, when he was succeeded by Rev. O. S. Stearns, who was ordained in May, 1847. In 1848, the old meeting-house was sold, and a new one erected. This was consumed in 1863, when a fire destroyed it, the original meeting-house, and other property. In 1864 the present brick house was erected, at the cost of \$20,000. It is considered the best edifice devoted to religious uses in the town. Mr. Stearns took his dismissal in 1854, and has since been honorably known as one of the professors in the Baptist Theological Seminary at Newton. He was followed by Rev. S. S. Parker, whose pastorate continued thirteen years. The Rev. B. F. Bronson succeeded him in 1867, and continued till 1873, when Rev. H. H. Rhees was called to the pastoral office. In 1877, Aug. 1, Rev. A. G. Upham, the present pastor, was ordained and installed. The ministers of the two Baptist churches appear to have been superior men, and some of them are well known and respected beyond denominational bounds. The society is large at present, and connected with it are many influential citizens. The deacons of the first church were Thompson Kimberly, Cyrus Ammidown, Joshua Vinton, Samuel Fisk, Elisha Cole, and Marvin Cheney. The deacons of the Central Church have been Marvin Cheney, Henry Fiske, Adoniram Coombs, Charles E. Steward, and Alpha M. Cheney. The superintendent of the Sabbath school is Mr. E. G. Guy.

The beginnings of mechanical and manufacturing business in Southbridge were small, and they have grown to their present gigantic proportions by degrees. Passing by the saw and grist mills, which, as a necessity here, as elsewhere, had been set up in the early days of the settlement, it appears that John Gray was a clothier, in what is now Southbridge, as early as 1790. Deacon George Sumner was in the same business in 1802. He manufactured the first wool into fabrics, designed for sale, in the year 1811. Previous to this, his business had been that usual with clothiers—that is, the dressing of cloth woven by women in their hand-loom. At this time, 1811-12, there were a few dwelling-houses in Southbridge Centre, a small meeting-house belonging to the poll parish, and a sparse population. Globe Village was a thing of the future. There was a burying-yard, and some attention had been given to the opening

and improvement of the roads. In 1813 the cotton business was started by William Sumner. A cotton factory, on a small scale comparatively, was erected. This establishment, enlarged somewhat when Deacon Sumner left it in 1814, was owned by several men, who formed a new manufacturing company. They bought of the heirs of Capt. Marcy one-half of the water-power, including the power on the west end of the dam, where the old mills of Col. Moses Marcy had stood. This company bore the name of the Charlton Manufacturing Company for a year or two, but in June, 1816, was incorporated as the Southbridge Factory Company. This company failed in 1818, and the property returned to the Marcy estate. Many parties occupied this property in succession, until Ebenezer Ammidown came into possession, and, about 1836, organized the Central Cotton Mills Company. By various changes, which it would be tedious to describe, the property was conveyed from the Dresser Manufacturing Company to the Central Manufacturing Company, which was incorporated in 1837, and authorized to hold real estate to the amount of \$75,000, and personal estate not exceeding \$150,000 in value. The company was organized with a capital of \$60,000. In 1845 it was re-organized, with a capital increased to \$80,000, when E. D. Ammidown was chosen agent; C. A. Dresser, superintendent; and Manning Leonard, clerk. The whole property was sold to Messrs. Dresser and Leonard in 1858. By a re-organization, in 1863, the whole estate was conveyed by them to the Central Mills Company. The mill now has about six thousand six hundred spindles, and one hundred and fifty looms. The water-power is nearly twenty-nine feet fall.

The Dresser mill, or cotton mill, of Calvin A. Paige, was on the Marcy estate, and the principal owner was William Sumner. This property passed through many hands, including Linus Child and Alexander DeWitt. The paid capital was \$36,000. The product was light-weight sheeting. The mill was burned several years since.

The cotton manufacturing business was commenced in what is now known as Globe Village in 1814, when the Globe Manufacturing Company was incorporated. They were authorized to make "cotton and woolen cloth and yarn." The incorporators were Thomas Upham, David Fiske, and their associates. James and P. B. Wolcott had much to do in originating this business. The history of the works on the site of this company is too complicated for a mere historical sketch; but a brief statement may be acceptable. The company built a large mill in 1814, known as the Globe Mill. In 1816 the brothers Wolcott and S. A. Graves formed a new company for the manufacture of woolen products. The Wolcott Woolen Manufacturing Company was incorporated in 1820, with a capital of \$50,000. The Wolcott Brick Mill was built in 1823. The power broad-loom, for weaving broadcloths, was introduced in 1824. The breaking down of the big dam, and other losses, crippled the company, and in 1831 the Hamilton Woolen Company was incorporated,

with a capital of \$200,000. This company has built and enlarged mills on a great scale, and has done an immense business. It is classed with the largest establishments in the State. This is the company that established an excellent library for the use of persons in their employ, and erected a church, costing \$20,000, in 1868, for the accommodation of the religious society, or Free Evangelical Church, in the village.

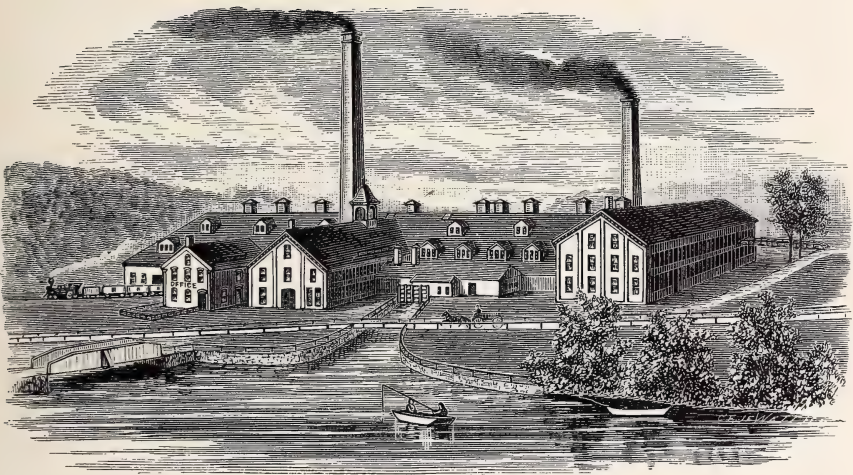
A brick mill was built in 1837-8. This was burned in 1850. It was built anew, and now the company own and use several four and five-story brick buildings, in which are made the celebrated Hamilton delaines, worsted dress goods, prints, and cassimeres. The capital of the company is \$600,000. The president is John R. Barnes; treasurer, Joshua Ballard; agent, John Tatterson; superintendent, Lewis H. Hunt.

The Columbian Company was formed in 1821, and was burnt out in 1844. This was a cotton mill. The property has had several owners, but in the year 1866 was sold to Henry T. Grant, of Providence. He erected an additional mill, for making print-cloths. The weekly product in 1874 was twenty-four thousand yards.

The Ashland mills were built in 1843, by Larkin Ammidown. This establishment was at Saundersdale. It was burnt in 1849; but, previous to this time, as early as 1834, the Quinebaug River and Lebanon Hill Brook had been raised by a dam. Different parties succeeded to the business done here, until 1847, when the village was known as Ashland. In 1864 the property was purchased by James Saunders, of Providence, and the place is known as Saundersdale. Extensive buildings of brick for print-works were erected in 1867-9, but depression in printing business made the investment unprofitable. The property was sold to Earl P. Mason, of Providence. It is now leased to T. & J. H. Saunders, who are making prints of superior style and quality, which find a ready sale in the market.

The American Optical Company commenced operations in 1869. It has grown from small beginnings to the largest establishment of the kind in the United States. The following are the names of its officers: President, Robert H. Cole; secretary, C. S. Edmonds; treasurer, E. M. Cole. At first, the capital was \$40,000; it is now \$60,000. In 1872 a new building was erected, at a cost of \$35,000. The business was originated by William Belcher, a skilful mechanic, with a rare inventive genius. The glasses are growing in popularity, and the business has steadily increased. Gold, silver, and steel, as well as rubber, are used for bows, and the workmanship is excellent. This business adds much to the prosperity of the town, as it employs many ingenious and intelligent men, besides adding to the wealth of the community. Banks and other associations will be noticed on a subsequent page.





SOUTHBRIDGE PRINT WORKS, SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS.



## CHAPTER II.

METHODIST SOCIETY — UNIVERSALISTS — CATHOLICS — FREE CHURCH — EDUCATION — PUBLIC LIBRARY — LOCAL PRESS — THE CIVIL WAR — BANKS AND SOCIETIES — NOTABLE BIOGRAPHIES.

RESUMING the ecclesiastical history, we find there was Methodist preaching in the limits of Southbridge, as it now exists, as early as the year 1801. When the poll parish was organized, there were Methodists among the joint owners of the first meeting-house. It was not, however, till 1834 that they had a separate meeting. During six years they held meetings in the school-house at Globe Village. Rev. Hezekiah Davis was the first minister who was located here. In 1843 a meeting-house was erected. Rev. F. P. Tracy officiated here in 1834, about the time when the church was formed and began to have meetings by themselves. Many ministers had been on the ground before there was a distinct church. Since then, they have come and gone, according to the usage of the denomination to which they belong. The church has a firm foothold in the town, owns a convenient and tasteful house of worship, and seems well equipped for Christian work. The present pastor is Rev. E. S. Best, who, though far from old age, is a veteran in the ministry.

As stated already, the Universalists were members of the poll parish, and had an ownership in the meeting-house built in 1797; and ministers of that denomination occupied the pulpit occasionally, in some proportion to the number of members who believed in the doctrine of universal salvation. About the time when the old poll parish was dissolved by the separation of its component parts, the Universalists began to have public services independently, and, in the course of time, they formed a society and provided themselves with a house of worship. The society was organized as the First Universalist Society of Southbridge, in 1838. Money was raised for maintaining preaching half the time, for the ensuing year. In 1842, a meeting house was erected, and provided with a bell. Not less than fifteen ministers have supplied the pulpit, besides occasional occupants. The first pastor was Rev. John Boyden, who remained three or four years. The present pastor, who has held the position several years, is the Rev. B. V. Stevenson, who is an earnest friend of temperance, and ready to co-operate with others in promoting the moral and religious welfare of the community.

The first meeting to make arrangements for regular worship by the Roman Catholics in Southbridge was held at the house of Samuel Seavey, some time in 1840. There were twelve persons present, seven of whom were of Irish descent, and five were Germans and French Canadians. By 1845 the number of Catholics had increased to forty-five. This seems to have been the beginning of the large influx of the foreign-born population. The Rev. G. Fitton



was the first priest on the ground, unless some one might have been here on transient service. In 1846 Father Legan began his ministry in the place. The present house of worship was completed, and dedicated May 1, 1853. It bears the name of St. Peter, and has the capacity to seat a numerous audience. The church is at present under the pastoral care of Rev. John M. Kremmen.

In 1870, the French Catholics had become numerous enough to authorize the opening of a separate place of worship, and accordingly they organized as a society and erected Nôtre Dame Church. The pastor is Rev. G. Elz Brochu. The two Catholic churches stand near together, and are conspicuous from their situation and style of architecture. They are between the two villages, and therefore accommodate the population of foreign birth and their native-born children, in and near the centre of the town. The tract of woodland, which formerly separated the two villages a distance of nearly half a mile, is now reduced to a small and pleasant grove, which enhances the beauty of the site of the Catholic churches. The population of the town, by the census of 1875, was five thousand seven hundred and forty. The number of the foreign-born was two thousand four hundred and sixty. To these must be added their children who were born here. Deducting from the whole number those of foreign birth who are Protestants, there would be left the number of persons whose religious sympathies and connections are with the Catholic churches in the town. The exact number cannot be given, but the census gives a significant fact, which indicates what the population is to be before many years. The number of mothers in Southbridge in 1875 was one thousand and twenty-six. Of these, four hundred and thirteen were native-born, and six hundred and thirteen were of foreign birth.

The Evangelical Free Church was formed in 1854. In that year a company of believers living in Globe Village and vicinity, to the number of twenty-one, took measures for providing the means of the public worship of God. In the little band were Congregationalists, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians and Episcopalians. They organized themselves into a church of Christ, under the name of the Evangelical Free Church and Society. Their bond of union was a common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and love for his service. The church is substantially Congregational in polity or government, and strictly Evangelical in faith, and the pastors have been connected with the Congregational denomination from the beginning. Public worship was held in Gothic Hall from 1854 to 1869, when the Hamilton Woolen Company placed at the disposal of the society a beautiful and capacious brick church. This was dedicated July 16, 1869, and has since then been occupied, freely, by a considerable congregation. The following have been the pastors in the order of their names: Rev. Messrs. John Cunningham, William C. Whitcomb, Harvey Loomis, Thomas Morong, Martin L. Richardson, Austin Dodge, Frank A. Warfield, George A. Jackson, G. H. Wilson. The superintendent of the Sabbath school is Mr. Charles Hyde.

The cause of education has been well cared for since the town was incorporated, in 1816. In that year, when the number of scholars was small, the sum of \$400 was raised for school purposes. By 1840 the sum had increased to \$1,000. By degrees, the appropriation rose till 1857, when \$2,000 were voted for schooling. In 1860, the sum was \$3,000; in 1868 it was \$4,500; and in 1870, \$5,500. A high school was started in 1854, at small expense. In 1855 the sum of \$600 was appropriated for its support. In 1868 the sum raised was \$1,200, and in 1870, \$1,900, making the total amount of money devoted to schools in 1870, \$7,400. By the report of the State Board of Education, in 1878, the number of schools in the town was twenty-four; the number of different scholars in the schools in the school year 1877-8 was fourteen hundred and two; the schools were in session eight months and ten days; and the money raised by taxes, exclusive of cost for superintendence and printing, was \$9,780. The sum spent for each child between five and fifteen years of age was \$7.001. It should be stated that a high school was sustained by private subscription from 1841 to 1854, when the town established a high school according to the law. The town was formerly divided into seven school districts; but in 1868, at the annual March meeting, it was voted "that the several school districts in the town of Southbridge be and they are hereby abolished, and that the town will henceforth enter upon and take possession of the property of the districts, in accordance with the provisions of the General Statutes."

One of the most efficient means of general education is a good library. It crowns all the other means and appliances of learning. In this regard the town is well supplied. The Southbridge Public Library was established by vote of the town, March, 1870, and was opened for public use Feb. 4, 1871. At first the books were kept in Whitford's Block, but on the first of January, 1872, the collection was removed to the commodious rooms designed especially for the purpose of a library, and perpetually leased to the town by Holmes Ammidown, Esq., of New York. By conditions of the lease, the town must raise \$700 yearly, to be expended for books not partisan in politics, nor denominational or sectarian in religion, and must keep it open eight hours a day, Sundays and legal holidays excepted. The library is free to all residents of the town over fourteen years of age.

More than seven thousand volumes are already in the library, and frequent additions are made. The number of pamphlets is about two thousand five hundred. A reading-room, formerly supported by private subscription, but now free, is connected with the library in an adjoining room, and a museum has been established by the generous gifts of Mr. Ammidown. The hours for the delivery of books are from ten to twelve A. M., two to five and six to nine P. M. The library committee is composed of the following gentlemen: George H. Mellen, Manning Leonard, G. G. Bulfinch, J. Harrington, W. K. Paton, S. P. Irwin, Jr., William Halloran, Joseph Jaggard. The first named is chairman and the second is secretary of the committee. Miss A. Jeannette Comins is

the librarian. A remark inserted here may, perhaps, have a good result. It is that the value of the library may be greatly increased by the addition of pamphlets, maps, charts and plans of buildings, cemeteries, parks, and towns. As these articles are rarely taken out of a library, their usefulness is overlooked; but, for all historical and biographical purposes, pamphlets and files of newspapers and magazines are invaluable. Instead of being sent to the paper-mill, these publications should be stored in the public library.

Besides the public library, there is a large number of books in constant circulation which are connected with the various Sabbath schools. The library in Globe Village has been referred to in another place.

The press stands in close relation with schools and libraries as an educating force. The town is flooded with periodicals of every kind, but reference is now had to the papers which have been or are now published in Southbridge. The first paper published in the town was the "Reformer and Moralist," the first number of which was issued on the first Thursday of January, 1828. Pierpont Edwards B. Botham was sole proprietor and editor. It was, among other things, an advocate of total abstinence from intoxicating drinks. After the first year the name was changed to the "Moralist and General Intelligencer." In the spring of 1829 the materials of the printing office were bought by Josiah Snow, who started a paper named the "Southbridge Register." The next owners of the property were Milton Joslin and Edwin D. Tiffany, who started the "Village Courier," Feb. 7, 1832. The other papers, it will be understood, had been discontinued. The "Village Courier" was designed to be neutral in politics, but, as Mr. Tiffany was a Whig and an ardent supporter of Henry Clay for the Presidency, he bought out the interest of his partner and made the paper a staunch supporter of Mr. Clay. This movement led to the starting of another newspaper, Sept. 1, 1832, which was called the "True Republican," and advocated the measures of Gen. Jackson, who was then in the Presidential chair. Both of the above had a short lease of life.

The "Ladies' Mirror," a literary paper, was published a little over one year. The first number was issued Aug. 28, 1830. Each number contained eight pages of nine by eleven inches. G. W. H. Fiske was connected with the publishing department, and during part of the time W. N. Sherman was the editor. From this time about twenty years passed before another publication was started in the town. Nine numbers of the "Southbridge Press" were issued in the autumn of 1853, when it ceased to appear. Sidney Clark started a paper of the same name Jan. 10, 1854; and, in the following June, Clark Jillson, the editor, became joint proprietor, and continued in the connection till near the close of 1855. E. A. Denney took the paper from Mr. Clark in the latter part of 1857, and published it about one year. The "Saturday Morning News" had a short run in 1859. This was followed in 1860 by the "Quinebaug Item."



The "Southbridge Journal" superseded the above paper in 1861, and was issued by Henry C. Gray until Aug. 17, 1868. William B. Morse became proprietor and editor, Aug. 17, and conducted the business till December, 1871, when George M. Whitaker became his associate. More recently, the paper has passed into the hands of Mr. Whitaker as editor and proprietor. The paper has a large circulation in Southbridge and the adjoining towns, and a good advertising business. As a local paper, it ranks among the best, and its influence in favor of education, temperance, and good morals is outspoken and decided. One feature of the "Journal" is worthy of notice and imitation. The editor is fond of historical studies, and gathers much material for local history into his columns. Lately the "Journal" has contained a record of births, deaths and marriages in one or more of the towns in South Worcester. If this should be continued, the paper would become a desideratum in all our libraries and historical society collections. The columns of the "Journal" have essentially aided in the preparation of this sketch.

In the war of the Rebellion, Southbridge bore an honorable part, with the expenditure of much money, and the loss of many valuable lives. But the town increased in population and valuation during the war. In 1860 the population was 3,575; in 1865 it was 4,131. The valuation was \$1,304,825 in 1860, and in 1865 it was \$1,696,264. The selectmen, during these eventful years, were Verney Fiske, Adolphus Merriam, Malcolm Ammidown, James Gleason, Gayton Ballard, Henry C. Ammidown, William C. Steadman, Manning Leonard, and John O. McKinstry. The town clerk was Daniel F. Bacon. Samuel M. Lane was treasurer in the years 1861-64, and Daniel F. Bacon in 1865.

The first town meeting, legally called to concert measures in aid of the Government against the Rebellion, was held May 6, when the sum of \$8,000 was appropriated for raising and equipping a military company, and for the support of the families of those who might enter the service. The selectmen, with the addition of William Beecher, J. O. McKinstry, John Edwards, and C. A. Dresser, were chosen a committee to take charge of the appropriation, and expend it "according to their best discretion." This committee were authorized to pay for each volunteer, who resided in the town, a dollar and a half each week to the wife, and half a dollar to each child under twelve years of age, during the term of the volunteer's active service. The committee were also to pay to each enlisted man eight dollars a month "while in active service, and fifty cents for each half day spent" in preliminary drilling. On the 7th of October, the selectmen were authorized to pay State aid to the families of soldiers, as provided by a law passed at the extra session of the Legislature.

In 1862, July 1, the following resolutions, offered by Hon. E. L. Ammidown, were passed by the town: —

"1. That the treasurer be authorized to borrow the sum of \$4,000 to pay soldiers, and the interest on the money borrowed, giving to each soldier, not to exceed thirty-

eight, the sum of \$100 ; said bounty to be paid to each soldier when mustered into the military service for three years, and credited to the quota of the town.

"2. That the town clerk be requested to obtain the names of volunteers who belong to Southbridge, and are mustered into the United States service, and enter the same on the Records of the town."

In August the treasurer was authorized to borrow \$6,000 for the payment of a bounty of \$100 to each volunteer, to the number of sixty, who should enlist in a nine months' regiment, and be credited to the quota of the town.

In 1863, January 5, the treasurer was authorized to borrow \$2,500 for the payment of bounties to volunteers, and the expense of enlisting the same. In September it was voted to pay State aid to the families of drafted men as well as the families of volunteers ; and in November money was appropriated to pay State aid to the families of men who had died or become disabled in the military service. In 1864, April 4, \$4,200 more were appropriated for military purposes. June 20 the bounty to volunteers for three years' service was fixed at \$125, and the selectmen were authorized "to set apart a suitable plot of ground in the public cemetery for the erection of a monument to the soldiers of Southbridge who had died, or might thereafter die, in the service of their country during the war." And in 1866, March 6, the sum of \$3,500 was raised to refund to persons who had paid money "upon subscriptions used for recruiting purposes."

The number of men furnished by the town for the war was four hundred, which was nineteen above all demands. Four were commissioned officers. The amount of money expended by the town on account of the war, exclusive of State aid, was \$17,313.65. The amount of money paid by the town for State aid was, during the war, \$18,367.98. Individuals voluntarily contributed \$5,757, which was not refunded by the town. The ladies worked with increased interest until there was no further call for supplies. The Soldiers' Aid Society sent money and other contributions to the amount of nearly \$1,200. The total of all these sums is \$43,647.63.

The Auditing Committee for the year 1866 reported in the words following, referring to the list of soldiers on the quota of the town : —

"1. It is indeed a Roll of Honor, to which we shall be proud to refer as our attestation of the loyalty and devotion of our people to the Union of the States, and the cause of republican liberty. There are among them few of rank, but all are of honor, save in one or two instances, and served their country well in all the vicissitudes of the war ; and we desire to perpetuate the memory of the fallen and the title of the living braves, by inscribing their names upon our public Records as part of our debt of gratitude to them."

Returning to the business department of this sketch, some of the more recently-formed companies will be mentioned. The Litchfield Shuttle Company was incorporated in 1868 with a capital of \$21,000. The president is F. C. Litchfield ; treasurer, L. M. Litchfield ; clerk, P. T. Litchfield. The

company is doing considerable business. The Southbridge Button Company, for manufacturing buttons out of vegetable ivory, is a recent enterprise. The Mutual Gas-Light Company was incorporated in 1870. The president is William C. Barnes; secretary, F. E. Edwards; treasurer, S. S. Perry. Shoe-knives are made by T. Harrington and S. Richards.

The Southbridge National Bank was incorporated in 1836, and reorganized in 1865. Its capital is \$150,000. President, Jacob Edwards; cashier, F. L. Chapin. The Southbridge Savings Bank was incorporated in 1848. The president is John P. Stedman; treasurer, Samuel M. Lane; secretary, Manning Leonard.

There are two Masonic lodges, viz., the Quinebaug Lodge, F. and A. M., and Doric Chapter, R. A. M.

The Southbridge Lodge, No. 47, I. O. O. F., meets weekly at Odd Fellows' Hall.

Here follow the names of several societies:—1. A. O. of H., organized in 1873. The initials stand for Ancient Order of Hibernians. The name indicates its nationality of birth. 2. The St. Jean Baptiste Society, whose members are of French or Canadian extraction. 3. The Golden Rule Temple of Honor, No. 40. It meets every Monday evening. 4. The Good Samaritan Club.

For the cultivation of music, there are the Mechanics' Band, C. G. Marcy, leader; the Globe Village Band, or Bande Nationale; and the Mozart Club, president, P. T. Litchfield; directress, Mrs. H. N. Carpenter.

The C. A. Dresser House, J. F. Parker, proprietor, is a new, spacious and well-furnished hotel, with all modern conveniences for the comfort of guests. The Globe Village House has a good reputation.

The fire department has two steamers, two engine companies, two hose companies, and two hook-and-ladder companies. The chief engineer is Pliny M. Clark; first assistant, William C. Barnes; second assistant, Paul J. Whalen.

The school committee are E. M. Phillips, chairman; Rev. B. V. Stevenson, James M. Ammidown, secretary. They have eighteen schools under their charge, and twenty-four teachers. There is a high school, George H. Mellen, principal; two grammar schools, three intermediate schools, and twelve primary schools. Besides these, there are five mixed schools, so called.

The First District Court of Southern Worcester holds a session for criminal business on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week; for civil business, on every Monday of each week, in the court-room in Ammidown Block. The standing justice is Hon. Clark Jillson, of Worcester; the first special justice is Frederick W. Botham, Esq.; the second is W. H. Davis, Esq.

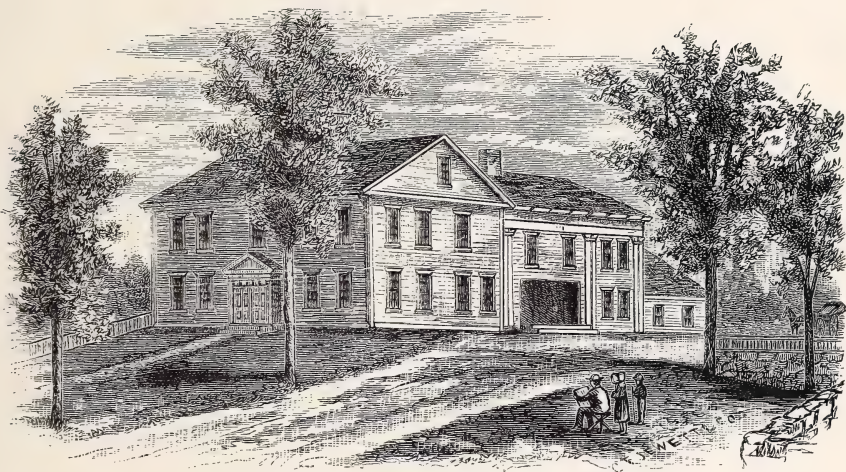
The following professional men are now in practice. The lawyers are Hon. A. J. Bartholomew and F. W. Botham and J. M. Cochran, Esqs. The physicians are L. W. Curtis, S. C. Hartwell, G. G. Bulfinch, Theophile Belanger, H. D. West, and F. Gauthier.



The increase of Southbridge in population, wealth and business, is shown by the following statements. The population of the town in 1820, when its first census was taken, was one thousand and sixty-six; in 1850, two thousand eight hundred and twenty-four; in 1870, five thousand two hundred and eight; by State census in 1875, five thousand seven hundred and forty. The valuation in 1875 had risen to \$2,946,351. The yearly agricultural products of the town amounted to the value of \$160,908. The capital invested in manufactures in 1875 was \$3,476,788; the total yearly wages were \$921,389; the stock used in manufactures was valued at \$1,234,944; and the value of goods made and work done was \$3,569,438. According to a statement recently widely circulated, there were in Southbridge, twelve years ago, "thirty-five various manufacturing enterprises, employing about fifteen hundred people. To-day these enterprises are more than doubled, being in all eighty-two," with a largely increased capital. "The number employed is now over two thousand, and all the business enterprises in the town are steadily enlarging their capacity and productions." The valuations in the centre of business have increased many fold within a few years, notwithstanding the return to the standard of gold. Several four and five story brick blocks have been built, three of them last year. In the years 1878-9, fifty-four brick stores, tenements and dwellings have been erected. The central part of the town is fast taking on the appearance of a city. This is owing to the number, size, style and finish of the principal buildings, including some of the churches.

A few biographical notes will fitly close the preceding sketch. By way of introduction, it may be said that the leading business men of Southbridge, during the last sixty or seventy years, have been men of large capacity, and great power to effect definite results. Their names would form a long list, and any adequate account of their enterprise and achievements would fill a volume of respectable size. The names of Marcy, Sumner, Dresser, Ammidown, Wolcott, Plimpton, Edwards, Botham, Mason, Paige, and their compeers appear on every page of the town's annals, and a large part of its prosperity in the past and the present is due to them. Doubtless some future historian of Southbridge will detail at length their career as men of foresight and practical ability, and celebrate their virtues. In this place only a few of those who have passed from earthly scenes will claim our attention.

The name of Marcy has long been favorably known in Sturbridge, Charlton, and the neighboring towns. The two Jedediah Marcys, father and son, were men of clear heads and strong purpose, and the latter, especially, left his mark upon the early history of Southbridge. But his son, the Hon. William Learned Marcy, became the most distinguished of the family, and of all the sons of his native place. He was born in Sturbridge, as the lines then ran, but in that part which is now in Southbridge, and therefore may be fairly claimed as part of the intellectual product of the town. He was born Dec. 12, 1786, and died at Balston Spa, New York, July 4, 1857. Educated in the schools of his



MARCY HOMESTEAD, SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS.





native district, and in the academies at Leicester and at Woodstock, Conn., he entered Brown University, and, maintaining the rank of a good scholar, was graduated with distinction in 1808, at the age of twenty-two years. He studied law, and was admitted to the bar in Troy, N. Y., where he followed the practice of his profession. In the war of 1812-15, he entered the military service as lieutenant, his company having volunteered for the purpose of defending the country on the northern frontiers. He served with spirit and effect till the close of the war. The posts he filled in his public life can only be enumerated. He began official life as Recorder of Troy. Next he became the editor of "The Troy Budget." In 1821 he was appointed adjutant-general, and in 1823 he was elected comptroller of the State by the Legislature. As a politician he was a leading member of the "Albany Regency," so styled, who controlled the policy of the Republican or Democratic party, as parties then were named. Mr. Marcy helped to give the vote of the State to Gen. Jackson. In 1829 he became Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the State. He was elected United States Senator, Feb. 1, 1831, as a supporter of Gen. Jackson, and special friend of Martin Van Buren. In 1832 he was chosen Governor of the State of New York. He was re-elected in 1834, and again in 1836, but in 1838 was defeated by Mr. Seward. During the administration of President Polk, 1845-9, Mr. Marcy was Secretary of War, and exhibited great efficiency in conducting the affairs of his department in the war with Mexico. When Franklin Pierce entered on his Presidential term, 1853-7, Mr. Marcy was placed at the head of the State Department. The duties of his office were conducted with great ability. His term of office closed on the fourth of March, 1857, and just four months later his eventful life terminated in sudden death while he was engaged in reading. He is described as a person above the ordinary height, stout and muscular, with forehead, face and eyes indicating a man of ability.

Rev. Eber Carpenter, who was pastor of the Congregational Church nearly twenty-nine years, from 1835 till 1864, was born in Vernon, Conn., June 24, 1800. He was a man of considerable ability, of great industry and fidelity in his sacred calling, and of deep and sincere piety. The influence of such a man, as a public-spirited citizen and an ardent friend of the education of the young, as well as a devoted parish minister, was great, and in many ways beneficial.

Among the more distinguished men who have ministered to the Baptist Church are the Rev. Sewall L. Cutting, D. D., and the Rev. Oakman S. Stearns, D. D. Mr. Cutting is a native of Windsor, Vt., where he was born Jan. 13, 1813. He was educated at Waterville (Me.) College and the University of Vermont, graduating at the latter in 1835. His *alma mater* honored him with the degree of Doctor of Divinity in the year 1859. After a brief pastorate in West Boylston, he was installed over the Baptist Church in Southbridge, Sept. 25, 1839. After a service of eight years in this place, he became editor of the

"New York Recorder," a denominational paper of ability and influence. In 1850 he was chosen corresponding secretary of the American and Foreign Bible Society. His editorial connection with the "Watchman and Reflector," of Boston, was continued from 1851 to 1853. At the same time he was principal editor of the "Christian Review," an able and learned quarterly. In 1853 he again became connected with the "New York Recorder." Two years later, 1855, he was appointed professor of rhetoric and history in the University of Rochester, where he remained about twelve years. In the later years of his active life, Dr. Cutting has been engaged in promoting the education of a learned ministry to enter upon their "profession among the churches of the Baptist faith."

Prof. Stearns, son of Rev. Silas Stearns, for thirty years pastor of the Baptist Church in Bath, Me., was born in that place Oct. 20, 1817. He was a graduate of Waterville College in 1840, and of Newton Theological Institute in 1846. In 1847 he became pastor of the church in Southbridge, and remained in that position until May 30, 1854, when he was dismissed, at his own request, on account of the failure of his health. After trying the climate of New Jersey and finding no benefit, he accepted a call to the Baptist Church at Newton, in 1855, and continued to labor in that position "with great harmony and success until he accepted the professorship of biblical literature in Newton Theological Institute in June, 1869."

The Hon. Ebenezer D. Ammidown, born Nov. 18, 1796, is said to have been "eminently the leading man in Southbridge and vicinity in public improvements." He was one of those sagacious men who comprehend the influence of roads, whether highways or railroads, in promoting all the interests of a community, whether material or intellectual and moral. At one time he "was operating all the cotton-mills in the vicinity, as the Dresser or Paige Mill, the Westville Mill, the Columbian and the Central Company Mills." As a commissioner and president of a railroad, as a county commissioner, as a magistrate, a senator, and representative, he conducted with great ability and sound judgment. The late Hon. Linus Child writes as follows: "He was a man of great natural talent and energy, and to whatever business or employment he applied himself he always exhibited great clearness of perception, comprehensiveness of views, and a capacity to appreciate at a glance the true bearings of any subject to which he gave his attention. In these particulars he was rarely excelled or even equalled."

The Hon. Linus Child resided in Southbridge many years in the maturity of his noble manhood. He was born in Woodstock, Conn., near the State line, in 1802, February 27, and obtained his preparatory education under the tuition of Rev. Samuel Backus, East Woodstock, and at Bacon Academy at Colchester. After finishing the prescribed course of study, he was graduated at Yale College in 1824. Having spent two or three years in the study of the law, he settled in Southbridge and commenced the practice of his profession. Here he

remained eighteen years, when, in 1845, he removed to Lowell to become the agent of the large corporation styled the "Boott Mills." It is not needful to follow the remaining years of his life, except to say that he occupied the position of an eminent and useful Christian citizen till his decease in 1870. But while he resided in Southbridge his course was steadily upward till he became one of the most prominent and respected men in the county. His business as a lawyer was extensive, and he rarely lost a cause in court. Six times was he elected to the office of State Senator from Worcester County on a general ticket, before the county was divided into senatorial districts. As a religious man, he was not only exemplary in private life, but felt profound interest in all the great benevolent enterprises of the day. The cause of missions, as represented by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, was especially dear to his heart.

In the "Historical Collections," two interesting volumes written by Mr. Holmes Ammidown, merchant, of New York, honorable mention is made of several prominent men in the annals of Southbridge. One of these was Moses Plimpton, who was equalled by few for business capacity. It is said of him that few, if any, exerted a greater or more beneficial influence in the town. "To the cause of temperance, schools, lyceums, religion, and in fact to all objects the design of which was the elevation of the people and society about him, he gave his attention and active support."

In appropriate terms, Mr. Ammidown celebrated the character and deeds of Timothy Paige, Jr., Esq., James Wolcott, Esq., Col. Otis Ammidown, Frederick W. Bottom, Esq., and Drs. Jacob Corey and Samuel Hartwell, physicians of great skill and extensive practice. The limits of this sketch preclude a more extended notice of these and other men of energy and public spirit, of whom the town of Southbridge appears to have possessed an unusual number.

In preparing the preceding sketch, information has been derived from Manning Leonard, Esq., Dea. Samuel Lane and Mr. Charles Hyde. The histories of Davis and Ammidown, and the columns of the "Southbridge Journal" have furnished valuable aid.



## SPENCER.

BY ALBERT W. CURTIS, ESQ.

## CHAPTER I.

ORIGINAL GRANT AND INCORPORATION — BOUNDARIES AND TOPOGRAPHY — NATURAL FEATURES, LAKES AND STREAMS — EARLY SETTLEMENTS — POPULATION — TOWN BUSINESS — SCHOOLS — TOWN HOUSE — PUBLIC LIBRARY — MUSEUM — FIRE DEPARTMENT — PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS — WAYS AND CONVEYANCES — HOUSES OF ENTERTAINMENT — ANTIQUITIES — POST-OFFICE.

THE Indian grant to the proprietors of the town of Leicester was confirmed by the General Court upon the condition that within seven years' time fifty families should settle on part of said land. To accomplish this the proprietors sold the eastern portion of the grant to actual settlers, and reserved the western portion for themselves. The town thus became early divided into the "settlers' part," which constitutes Leicester, and the "proprietors' part," now Spencer. The natural result of this mode of settlement was that the few who had purchased land in the "proprietors' part" had to bear the full proportion of all taxes, while those in the "settlers' part" enjoyed all the benefits of church, school, and improvements. The western part soon became dissatisfied with this arrangement, and in 1736 petitioned the General Court "that the tax of one penny per acre laid on the proprietors of the westerly part of Leicester might be applied towards the support of preaching in that part of the Town." Through some informality the petition was not acted upon, and nothing further was done until 1741, when the western portion requested the town that they might be "set off." The vote was in the affirmative, and a committee was chosen to secure the necessary legislation. A bill for that purpose was passed by the General Court, but was vetoed by Gov. Shirley for the reason that it would increase the number of representatives. The inhabitants of the westerly part, however, did not despair, but employed John Ormes as agent in their behalf, to petition to be made a distinct town, or otherwise, to be a parish. He presented a petition to the General Court May 30, 1744, asking that the westerly part of Leicester might be made a precinct. The petition was granted and "the second precinct of the town of Leicester" was

incorporated July 18, 1744. In 1749, because the selectmen refused to lay out town roads in the west parish, application was made to the Court of Sessions at Worcester to lay them out. A compromise was effected, but the town chose a committee to petition the General Court to set off the west part "into a distinct and separate town." The bill was passed by the General Court, but was vetoed by Lieut. Gov. Spencer Phips, Gov. Shirley being in England. The reason of the veto was similar to the former one, that the number of representatives would be increased. Three years later, at a parish meeting held March 6, 1753, Benjamin Johnson, John White, and John Worster were chosen a committee to make one more effort to secure incorporation as a town, and they secured the passage of an act entitled "An act for erecting the second precinct in the town of Leicester into a separate district." The provisions of the bill were —

*"Be it enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council, and House of Representatives,*

*"That the second precinct of Leicester, bounding north on the town of Rutland, easterly on the First Parish in Leicester, southerly on land called the Country Gore, westerly on the town of Brookfield, be and hereby is erected into a separate and distinct district by the name of Spencer, and that the said district be invested with all the powers, privileges, and immunities that towns in this province by law do or may enjoy, that of sending a representative to the General Assembly only excepted."*

It was further provided that the district might join with the town of Leicester in choosing a representative, and the district clerk was to be notified of all meetings for that purpose. The act passed the House and Council April 3, 1753, and was approved by Lieut. Gov. Spencer Phips April 12. While this act did not erect a separate town in name, yet it did to all intents and purposes, and it is the only act of incorporation that Spencer ever had. The title of district was used until July 17, 1775, when a meeting of the district, acting upon the following warrant,—

"Whereas the Selectmen of Spencer have received a precept from the Provincial Congress containing a resolve of the Honorable Continental Congress recommending to form government as near the spirit and substance of the charter as may be and also containing a request from the Provincial Congress to cause the inhabitants of the District of Spencer, who are qualified agreeable to the charter aforesaid to vote for a representative to set in the Great and General Court or Assembly of this colony, to be assembled for to elect and depute one or more person or persons to represent them in a Great and General Court to be convened and held at Watertown on Wednesday the nineteenth day of July instant, and to continue, if need be, until the end of the day next preceeding the last Wednesday in May next and no longer, and by order of the Selectmen I do hereby notify and warn all the freeholders and other inhabitants of Spencer, aforesaid, to meet at the Meeting House in Spencer on Monday, the seventeenth day of July instant, at five o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of choosing a person or persons to represent them in the Great and General Court.

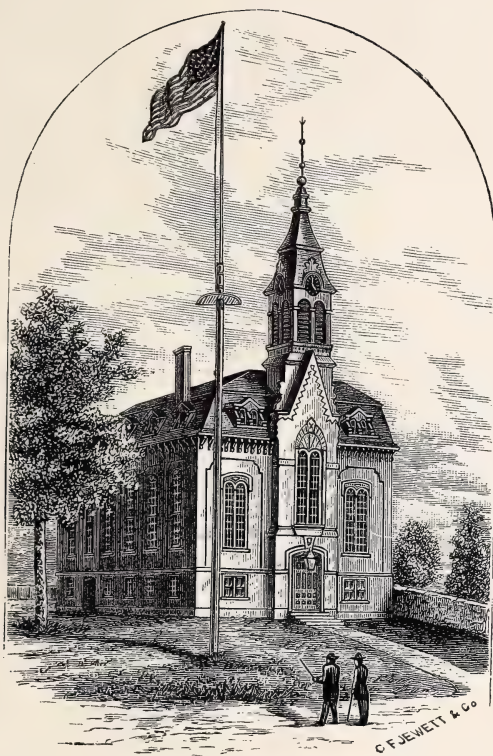
*"JOHN BISCO, District Clerk."*

—elected Oliver Watson as representative; thus severing their connection with Leicester and establishing a separate and distinct town. Until this date, all warrants had been directed to "a constable of the District of Spencer," and the clerks styled themselves "District clerks," but after this date the warrants were directed to "a constable of the Town of Spencer" and the clerks styled themselves "Town clerks."

The town contains 21,594 acres of land; its south line, bounding on Charlton, runs S.  $8^{\circ}$  E. four miles and forty-three rods; its east line, bounding on Leicester and Paxton, N.  $2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  W. eight miles and one hundred and fifty rods; its north line, bounding on Paxton and Oakham, S.  $85^{\circ}$  W. three miles and two hundred and fourteen rods; its west line, bounding on North Brookfield and Brookfield, S.  $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  E. eight miles and one hundred and eighty-six rods. The town is situated upon elevated land with a southerly slope. Although the face of the land is very uneven, yet there are not any very high or abrupt hills. There are a number of rounded hills interspersed through the town, which are of great fertility. The underlying rock is ferruginous gneiss, which in some places bear evidence of the glacial action of remote ages. The elevated situation prevents the formation of any ponds or rivers of any magnitude. Whittemore or Moose Pond is the only natural body of water entirely within the limits of the town. This is situated near the main village and contains about eighty acres, and is almost entirely supplied from springs along its margin. Browning's and Johnson's ponds embrace a small part of the northerly part of the town. In the centre village are three artificial ponds, which furnish considerable water-power. In the south-easterly part of the town is the Stiles Reservoir, which covers about four hundred acres. Most of the streams run southerly, the largest is Seven-Mile River. Rising in Browning's Pond and flowing through the northerly part of the town into Brookfield, it empties into Podunk Pond. Several small streams empty into this river before it reaches the Brookfield line. Only one stream flows south-easterly into French River. Although there is plenty of rock in the town, yet none of it is suitable for building purposes. Considerable quantities of upland iron ore were formerly carried to an iron foundry in Brookfield, but the business has died out. Discoveries of silver have been reported in different parts of the town, but not in sufficient quantities to pay for working.

The first person to purchase land in the "Proprietors' part" of the town of Leicester was Nathaniel Wood, who, in 1717, purchased one hundred acres of Paul Dudley near the Brookfield line on the old county road. He resided there but a few years and removed to Brookfield. In 1721, Samuel Bemis purchased four hundred acres of Paul Dudley, adjoining the land of Wood. He was the first permanent settler, and many of his descendants still live in the town. The first frame house erected in town was built by him about 1727. It is related that the Indians came frequently to his house to lodge, and that his wife, when about to have a child, went to Sudbury from fear of them, and





TOWN HALL, SPENCER, MASS.



when the child was only two weeks old she rode home with him in her arms in one day, a distance of about fifty miles. In 1723, John Greateon purchased a lot of land near what is now the Stiles Reservoir. The fourth settlement was made by Jonathan Lamb in 1726 in the south-easterly part of the town. In 1731, Samuel Bemis, Jonathan Lamb, and John Greateon were the only persons taxed in the "Proprietors' part" of Leicester. In 1733, James Ormes and Jonathan Ormes were added. In 1739 seventeen persons were taxed. In 1742, forty-one. The population of the district at the time of its incorporation was about 500. The population at the different censuses since that time have been, in 1776, 1,042; in 1790, 1,322; in 1800, 1,432; in 1810, 1,453; in 1820, 1,548; in 1830, 1,688; in 1840, 1,604; in 1850, 2,243; in 1860, 2,777; in 1865, 3,024; in 1870, 3,952; in 1875, 5,451. The rank of the town in population with others in the county has undergone many changes. In 1776 it was the eighteenth place in the county; in 1800, the fourteenth; in 1820, the nineteenth; in 1830, the twenty-third; in 1840, the twenty-eighth; in 1850, the eighteenth; in 1860, the sixteenth; in 1865, the twelfth; in 1870, the ninth; in 1875, the fifth. The number of houses in 1764 was 100; in 1850, 341; in 1860, 485; in 1875, 666; in 1878, 742. In 1875 the total valuation was \$2,605,027, being the eighth place in the county in this respect. In 1878 the valuation was \$2,862,650, and the number of polls 1,691. The number of registered voters in 1878 was 973. Of the population in 1875, 1,971 were born in the town, 1,327 were born in other towns in the State, 387 were born in other States, and 1,766 were foreign-born.

In accordance with the act of incorporation, Thomas Steele, Esq., of Leicester, issued a warrant to Benjamin Johnson "to notify and warn the inhabitants of said District qualified by law to vote in town affairs to meet at the Meeting House in said District on May 14, 1753." Benjamin Johnson was chosen moderator, clerk, selectman, and treasurer. The other selectmen were John Worster, John Cunningham, John Muzzy, and James Willson. The selectmen were also chosen assessors. Samuel Bemis and John Ormes were chosen constables, Joshua Draper and Benjamin Woodard, hog-reeves, and James Draper and Jacob Stoddard, tything-men.

One of the first acts of the district was, "Voted to allow Lieu. John White two pounds and thirteen shillings and four pence for his services in going to the Grate and Genrel Corte in order to git us to be a district." Several roads which the town of Leicester had refused to lay out were ordered to be built. The locations of these show the primitive condition of the country at the time, the courses being marked by notches on some particular trees. Many of these roads were beaten paths made by the settlers in their intercourse with one another and to attend church, and each settler was accommodated, if possible, with a road, after the formation of the district. The main road, the "old county," was laid out previous to 1725, as the town of Leicester was indicted at the Quarter Sessions in that year for not maintaining a bridge over Seven-



Mile River. The south county road was laid out in 1756 and the north county road in 1757. As the business and population of the town have increased, the number of roads has rapidly multiplied to meet the demands, until there are nearly three hundred miles of town roads to maintain and repair. At a meeting in 1753 it was voted "to raise forty two pounds of lawful money for the repair of roads." At the same meeting it was voted "to allow two shillings per day for a man and two shillings per day for one yoke of oxen and cart and one shilling for a yoke of oxen for work on the highways." In 1754 forty-five pounds were raised for highways, and this amount was annually appropriated until 1779, when the burdens of the war were so great that the town refused to appropriate any money for this purpose, and the surveyors were instructed "to invite the people to work on the roads without compensation." Since then the appropriations for this purpose have gradually increased, and for several years the appropriation has been \$5,000. The roads have been under the charge of surveyors, excepting in 1875-6-7, when they were under the care of road commissioners.

Although one of the reasons assigned for the separation from Leicester was the neglect to provide schools, the district did not take any action in the matter until 1755, when sixteen pounds were raised to hire a schoolmaster. In 1756 twenty pounds were raised, and it was voted "not to build any school-houses." In 1766 thirty pounds were raised and the district divided into six school districts, three south of the "old county road" and three north, and the schools were kept in private houses during that year. In 1768 it was voted "to build a school-house in each district," but on account of disagreements among the people and the war, the vote was not carried into effect until 1790, when a new division of the district was made and ten school-houses were ordered to be built. In 1759, by leave of the General Court, the district sold its school lands, containing about 109 acres, for \$436. Previous to 1856 a high school was maintained by private subscriptions; in that year the town raised \$300 for that purpose, and the next year a large building was erected for the accommodation of the school on the north side of the common. The land was the gift of William Pope, Esq. A fund of \$2,000 had been bequeathed towards building the house, by Charles E. Denny.

The appropriations for schools were, after 1800, for several years, from five to six hundred dollars. In 1860 \$1,800 were raised for common schools, and \$600 for the high school. In 1870 the high school had \$1,000 and the common schools \$4,000. In 1879 common schools had \$8,000, and the high school \$1,800. The town is now divided into twelve districts, and the school property appraised at \$36,150. During the year 1878 twelve hundred and eighty-nine children attended the schools; the number of minors between the ages of five and fifteen were 1,407. Twenty-five teachers were employed during the year. The average pay of the common-school teachers was \$34 per month.

Town meetings were for many years held in the meeting-house, but the

records show that many adjournments were made to some of the taverns, where most of the important business was transacted. In 1839 a building was erected by the town. It was two stories high, 50 by 40 feet, with a cupola and bell. The lower story was divided into a number of apartments for the use of the town officers and fire department. The upper story was used for a hall, and was the only one in town for years. In 1863 a new bell was purchased for the building. As the population of the town increased larger accommodations had to be made, and in 1870 a committee of nine was chosen to report at the next March meeting on the subject. This committee reported in favor of building a new hall, but their report was rejected. The same month another meeting was called and a committee of thirteen chosen to build a new town house. The old house was sold and an elegant brick building erected on its site. The building is 100 by 70 feet, three stories high, with a bell and clock. The building was completed in 1872, at a cost of about \$58,000. The lower floor furnishes accommodation for the public library, town officers, lock-up and fire department; the second story is used for a hall; the third story is divided into halls, one of which is occupied by the Masonic and Odd Fellows' Lodges.

Several years previous to 1870 the Spencer Library Association was formed for the purpose of furnishing books for public use. The books were kept in the high-school building, and a small sum charged for their use. In 1870 the town voted "to accept the Library of the Spencer Library Association," and has annually appropriated the dog-fund for its benefit. The library contains about 2,800 volumes, and is patronized by nearly one thousand persons. It is under the care of three trustees appointed annually by the selectmen.

In the room with the library is the museum, a collection of historical relics and natural curiosities, which was accepted by the town in 1874. It contains many interesting relics of the wars in which the people of the town have engaged; also a large collection of Indian relics, which have been quite common in many parts of the town.

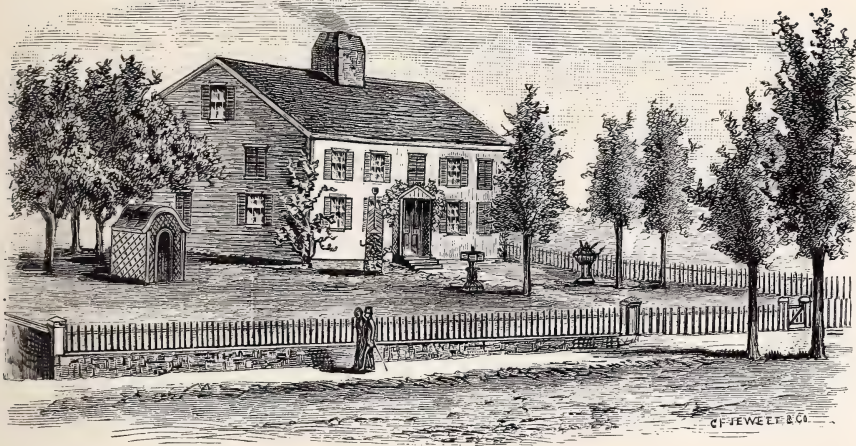
The town has a good and substantial fire department, consisting of a hand engine, which has done good service for many years, a steamer purchased in 1871, and a hook-and-ladder truck bought in 1874. Reservoirs have been located about the village, which furnish sufficient water at all times.

The town has been active in public improvements to meet its rapid growth. In 1869 it was voted to accept the provisions of the General Statutes in reference to sidewalks, and many plank walks have been laid. Lately, concrete walks have taken the place of plank walks. About fifteen hundred dollars are expended yearly for this object. In 1872 the town accepted the street-lamps which had been erected by private parties and voted to light them. The town now maintains about sixty lamps. In 1871 and '72 three hundred dollars were appropriated for shade-trees; since that time no appropriation has been made for this purpose.



One of the most important questions ever brought before the town was that of connection with the business world. The first record of a public conveyance is in 1783, when Levi Pease, of Somers, Conn., and Reuben Sikes, of Hartford, Conn., established a stage line between Hartford and Boston. The coach left Hartford at 11 o'clock A.M. Monday, reached Somers at night, on Tuesday reached Brookfield, Northborough on Wednesday, and Boston Thursday evening. The fare was fourpence per mile. Before the establishment of this line the mail was carried on horseback, and then on this line of stages. A French traveller in 1788 describes the stage as follows: "It was a carriage without springs—a kind of a wagon. A Frenchman who was with me began at the first jolt to curse the carriage, the driver and the county. Let us wait, said I, a little before we form a judgment; every custom has its cause; there is, doubtless, some reason why this kind of carriage is preferred to one hung on springs. In fact, by the time we had run thirty miles among the rocks, we were convinced that a carriage with springs would very soon have been upset and broken." Coaches continued to be the means of public conveyance until the construction of the Western Railroad, which was opened for public use Dec. 27, 1841. This road runs through the south part of the town, and the depot is located about two miles from the centre village. Attempts were made at the time to get the road located nearer the business portion of the town, but personal selfishness defeated them. Even after the road was located, some of the business men endeavored to obtain sites near the depot, but the price of land was so high that the plan was abandoned, and the business portion of the town continued located two miles from the depot. As the business of the town increased the subject of better railroad facilities began to be considered, and many different projects were conceived. For a time a route independent of the Boston and Albany Railroad was the favorite idea, and a corporation organized under the name of Worcester County Central Railroad, composed of business men of this and adjoining towns. A route was surveyed through the town a little north of Centre Village, but the cost of construction was found to be so large that the necessary funds could not be raised, and the project was abandoned. After the construction of the North Brookfield Railroad many were in favor of building a branch road to East Brookfield, but this had so much opposition that it was given up for a branch road to the depot in town. A survey of such a route had been made in 1870, but it was not until June 1, 1872, that the subject was brought before the town on an article "to see if the town will build a railroad from Spencer Depot to the village." The vote was in the negative. Nothing further was done except to make new surveys of routes, until in 1877 the town again voted "not to take any stock in a proposed railroad from the depot to the village." In 1878 the Spencer Railroad Company was organized "to construct a railroad from the depot to the village, with a capital of \$50,000," one-half of which was subscribed by the business men, and the town asked to take the balance of the stock. After a close contest a





THE POPE MANSION, SPENCER, MASS. (Oldest House in Town.)



vote to that effect was carried, and the road is now in operation, having been leased by the Boston and Albany Railroad.

Closely connected with the subject of public conveyance is that of public houses or inns. These were many in the early days of the town, there being five on the "old county road," three of them being near each other in the lower village, and probably they were well patronized, as this was the most frequented route for travellers between Boston and New York. Thirteen lines of stages were at one time running through the town. The oldest and most noted was the "Jenks Tavern," which occupied the site of the present Massasoit Hotel. This hotel was erected by Josiah Robinson in 1743, and is described by a French traveller in 1788 as follows: "The house of the tavern was but half built, but the part that was finished had an air of cleanliness which pleases, because it announces that degree of competence, those moral and delicate habits which are never seen in our villages. The chambers were neat, the beds good, the sheets clean, the supper passable; cider, tea, punch, and all for fourteen pence per head." Gen. Washington stopped at this tavern over night when he visited the Eastern States in 1789. It was destroyed by fire in 1870, and an elegant and commodious hotel has been erected on its site by the Spencer Hotel Company. The opening of the Western Railroad destroyed highway travelling, and the other hotels were converted into dwelling-houses or torn down. But two of the old taverns are now standing — the Mason House, near Isaac Prouty & Co.'s boot factory, and the Bemis House, opposite the Congregational Church.

The Pope mansion, the oldest house in the town, was built by Rev. Mr. Eaton. His journal has this entry: "Oct. 4, 1745. This day moved into my own house. Blessed be God, who has given me an habitation. May God dwell with us." The house was purchased of his heirs by Rev. Joseph Pope, Dec. 20, 1775. Situated on the main road from the western counties of Massachusetts to the capital, it was for half a century the hospitable resting-place of ministers on their way to and from the metropolis. Mrs. Anna Pope, widow of Rev. Joseph Pope, occupied this house for eighty-two years. She survived her husband thirty-three years, and died July 14, 1859, at the age of one hundred and four years six months and twenty-eight days. The house has been kept in good repair, and is still occupied by her descendants.

The post-office, when first established, was kept in the Jenks Tavern, where it remained many years, under the charge of Isaac Jenks and Isaac Jenks, Jr. Upon the appointment of Amasa Bemis, Jr., as postmaster, it was transferred to his tavern opposite the Congregational Church. Upon the appointment of Eleazer B. Draper it was re-transferred to the Jenks Tavern. George Livermore succeeded Draper, and the post-office was kept in Union Block, which was erected in 1851. Willard Rice, the next postmaster, had his office in the "Sol Davis" house, now Robert F. Howe's. Rice was succeeded by Luther



Hill, who kept the office in the store of Lorenzo Bemis. Horace A. Grout was the next postmaster, and he transferred it to Union Block, where it has since remained.

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## CHAPTER II.

MILITARY HISTORY—REVOLUTIONARY TIMES—SHAYS' REBELLION—THE GREAT CIVIL WAR—SLAVERY—ECCLESIASTICAL MATTERS—CHURCHES AND DENOMINATIONS—CEMETERIES.

THE military history of the town is a patriotic one, whether the inhabitants were serving the king, the Colonies, or the United States. It commenced with the declaration of war by Great Britain against France in 1744, one year after the incorporation of the district. Edmund Bemis and James Smith were in the expedition which resulted in the capture of Louisburg. An obituary notice of Edmund Bemis, published in the "Massachusetts Spy," Dec. 26, 1810, says: "He early entered into the service of his country, and was a lieutenant at the reduction of Louisburg in the year 1745. At this siege he was a zealous and active officer. After the French had surrendered to the victorious arms of New England, it was found that they had spiked their cannon, intending thereby to render them entirely useless to the captors. It had been heretofore deemed an impracticable thing, after a gun was thus spiked to drill it out, or by any other method whatever to render it again fit for service. The commander of the American forces offered a premium to any one who would undertake the task, if he should prove successful. Lieutenant Bemis undertook it, and by a process heretofore unthought of effected the desired object.. Instead of drilling, till then supposed to be the only practicable method, he collected a large quantity of wood around the cannon, and setting it on fire, heated it to such a degree, that, with a cold punch, the spike was easily driven into the barrel. Thus was he the author of a useful discovery to his country, which has ever since been followed with complete success. After the reduction of Louisburg, he was a captain in the war with France which succeeded; at the close of which he returned home, to seek that repose among his friends which he has since enjoyed without interruption. It will be, perhaps, worthy of notice, as one singular circumstance, that he dug the grave for the first person in Spencer, upwards of seventy years ago."

John Stebbings, Philip Richardson, John Wicker, James Smith, Jr., Israel Richardson, Jonas Bemis, James Capen, William May, Josiah Robinson, Jr., James Stebbings, and Joseph Worster, served in the war during the year 1756, Nathaniel Parmenter was in the service in 1759, and David Prouty and Daniel Hill in 1760. James Smith and Nathaniel Parmenter died in the service.

Thus the inhabitants acquired that knowledge of military tactics which proved

to be of great use to them, within a few years, in the contest for the principles of self-government. Most of the public actions of the town on the questions which led to that contest were taken in connection with the towns of Leicester and Paxton, when they assembled together to elect their representative, or when called to consult upon the issues which were impending. The resolutions passed at these different meetings, and the instructions drawn up for their representatives, show their earnestness in the cause of self-government and civil liberty. During the year 1774, not less than five of these meetings were held to consider "the melancholy situation of our public affairs at this critical conjuncture." In 1774 the town voted "that eleven pounds, one shilling, and seven pence be raised to furnish the town stock of ammunition." In accordance with this vote, one hundred pounds of powder were purchased for seven pounds, and one hundred and sixty-four pounds of bullets for three pounds. It was also voted to raise fifty "effective men" immediately, and furnish them with blankets, equipments, each one pound of powder, and bullets. A subscription for the relief of the inhabitants of Boston and Charlestown was also taken. The town directed its treasurers and constables to make their remittances to Henry Gardner of Stow, who had been chosen state treasurer by the congress assembled at Watertown, and "to save them harmless therefor." It was also voted "to accept the recommendation of Congress in reference to the non-importation of goods from Great Britain;" and John Cunningham, Oliver Watson, and Asa Baldwin were chosen "to see that the vote be enforced." During the year a company of minute-men was raised and placed under the command of Capt. Ebenezer Mason. At the annual meeting in 1775, a Committee of Correspondence were chosen, consisting of Oliver Watson, Moses Livermore, and John Muzzy. A town meeting was called for April 24, 1775, "to see what provision the town will make for the company of minute-men, should they be called into service."

But they were called upon before that day. The messenger announcing the march of Gen. Gage for Concord passed through the town in the afternoon of April 19. Fifty-six men, under Capt. Ebenezer Mason, started at once and marched through Leicester that evening. Nine men from Spencer also marched with Capt. Seth Washburn's company, of Leicester. On their arrival at Watertown, forty of Capt. Mason's company enlisted for eight months, under Capt. Joel Green and Lieut. David Prouty. This company was connected with the regiment commanded by Col. Larned of Oxford. Joseph Livermore, Elijah Southgate, Andrew Morgan, Jonas Lamb, Peter Rice, Thomas Sprague, John Hatch, Wright Woodward, and Isaac Livermore, enlisted in Capt. Washburn's company. This company participated in the battle of Bunker Hill, and covered the retreat of the troops who were engaged in the front. They escaped without injury. John Guilford, Daniel Ball, Benjamin G. Ball, and David Chamberlin were in the expedition to capture Quebec, in 1775.

In May, 1775, at the request of Congress to relieve the poor of Boston, the

town supported thirty-one persons ; ten fire-arms were also furnished the State by the town. It was also voted "to pay Jeremiah Whittemore for his services in attending the minute company with his team, two pounds and twelve shillings." In 1776, Asa Baldwin, Jeremiah Whittemore, Joshua Draper, David Prouty, Knight Sprague, and Benjamin Gleason, were chosen Committee of Correspondence. In June of that year, the selectmen being requested by Congress to obtain the opinion of the town "whether it would be supported in declaring the independence of the colonies from the Kingdom of Great Britain," it was voted "that, should Congress think it expedient to declare the colonies independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain, we do hereby *fully, freely, and solemnly* engage with our *lives* and *fortunes*, to support Congress in such a measure." And Oliver Watson was directed to communicate the vote to Congress.

In 1777 the Committee of Correspondence for 1776 was re-elected for that year. This year, in accordance with an act passed by the General Court, entitled, "An Act to prevent Monopoly and Oppression," the selectmen and Committee of Safety fixed the following prices : A day's work for a man in summer, 3s. ; a day's work for a yoke of oxen, 1s. 6d. ; a bushel of wheat, 6s. ; a bushel of rye, 4s. ; bushel of corn, 3s. ; sheep's wool, 1s. 10d. per pound ; cotton wool, 3s. 8d. per pound ; brown sugar, 8s. per pound ; coffee, 1s. 4d. per pound ; molasses, 4s. 6d. per gallon ; a meal of victuals, 9d. ; a night's lodging, 3d. ; West India flip, 11d. per mug ; New England flip, 9d. per mug. The town allowed to each man who should enlist for three years or during the war twenty pounds bounty, and voted to furnish blankets, one pair of shirts, stockings, and other clothing for the army, at the rate of one suit for every male person from the town over sixteen years of age. Between January and April, 1777, the town paid in bounties one hundred and ninety-nine pounds and fourteen shillings. The General Court having called in four hundred thousand pounds of the State's outstanding debts, the town made a vigorous remonstrance, but, being unsuccessful, raised its proportion by a tax. The amount raised was nine hundred and ninety-one pounds and seventeen shillings, or about thirteen hundred dollars.

In July, 1777, a company, under command of David Prouty, went to Bennington. In August another company, commanded by Josiah White, went to the same place. In November it was voted to assess one hundred pounds for ammunition bought. At a meeting in December, a committee was appointed "to ascertain what service each person had rendered, either by men, money, or otherwise, since April 19, 1775. There is nothing to show that this committee ever made a report. It was voted "not to allow Asa Whittemore's bill for carting baggage of Capt. Prouty's and Capt. White's companies to Bennington, and going to Hadley, as he had already been paid by the State." Joshua Lamb, John Muzzy, Joshua Barton, John Worster, and John Watson were chosen Committee of Safety for 1778. Jan. 5, 1778, the town adopted "the articles of perpetual union between the States," otherwise known as the



"Articles of Confederation." At a meeting in May, the town rejected the Constitution which had been formed by the General Court, the vote being one hundred and two against it. Seven men were paid this year thirty pounds each for enlisting for nine months, and thirty-seven pairs of shoes, shirts, and stockings were furnished to the State. The selectmen were instructed to furnish aid to the families of the soldiers. James Livermore, Benjamin Gleazen, John Worster, John Muzzy, and Jacob Upham were the Committee of Safety for 1779. Early in the year, bounties of thirty pounds each were paid to six men, who had enlisted for six months, and sixty pounds were raised for the families of soldiers. Between March and July of that year, eighty-nine pounds and seventeen shillings were raised for supplies for the army. At a meeting in July, upon notice from the selectmen of Boston that many Tories, who had left at the commencement of the Revolution, were now returning, spirited resolutions were passed approving of the conduct of the town of Boston "in their endeavors to take up and secure such odious persons who had the impudence to appear in that town, that they may be dealt with according to a good and wholesome law of this State." They also pledged themselves "to aid and assist the civil magistrate in the execution of all laws made for the purpose of excluding all such hateful creatures from among us, and we also recommend to all persons that they would exert themselves to prevent all and every of these dissolute wretches from coming and harbouring among any of the people of this State." A committee, consisting of Stephen Hatch, Jeremiah Whittemore, and Israel Ball, was chosen to look after the destitute families of the soldiers, and two hundred pounds raised for that purpose. The town instructed John Muzzy, their representative, "not to give his consent to any act for making up the sinks of money between debtor and creditor, either public or private, soldiers and officers in the Continental army excepted." Eleven more men were furnished for the army, and a tax of fifty-four hundred pounds assessed. It must be remembered that at this time currency was greatly depreciated, and this tax was equal to about nine hundred dollars.

In August, Asa Baldwin was sent by the town to a convention to be held at Concord to fix the prices of the necessaries of life. The prices of the most important articles were: corn per bushel, \$14; wheat, \$27; hay, \$5 per hundred; labor, per day, \$9; beef, 92 cts. per pound; men's shoes, per pair, \$20; stockings, per pair, \$12.

In 1780, John Muzzy, Johnson Lynde, John Sumner, Benjamin Bemis, and Jonas Muzzy were chosen Committee of Safety. In paying a bounty of thirty pounds to soldiers this year, the value of it was fixed at three shillings for corn and four shillings for rye. During the year there was a constant demand for supplies and money. In March, seven thousand one hundred and fifty pounds of beef were furnished for the army, and sixteen thousand pounds raised by a tax. In September, the selectmen were authorized to borrow money to purchase clothing and blankets for the soldiers, and forty-eight thousand four

hundred and fifty-six pounds was raised to pay soldiers. In October, twenty thousand pounds were raised to buy beef for the army, and thirty-five hundred and sixty-five pounds to provide horses for the use of the army. In December, four hundred and sixty-seven pounds more were raised for beef, and three thousand and fifty pounds to hire fourteen men to serve for three years. During this year, eighty-eight thousand six hundred and thirty-three pounds were paid into the town treasury. This seems a large sum for the people of those times, with their limited resources, and after the demands of the last few years; but it must be remembered that the currency was greatly depreciated at this time. At the beginning of the year it was forty to one, and before its close, two hundred and forty to one. In May the town assembled to vote upon the State Constitution. All of the articles were approved, excepting those in relation to representation, which were regarded as unequal, many places not being allowed to participate in the election of them.

In 1781, John Sumner, Jonas Muzzy, Johnson Lynde, Jeremiah Whittemore and Nathaniel T. Loring were the Committee of Safety. The town voted "that all money raised during the year be hard money." In July five hundred and thirty-six pounds were raised to purchase beef. In September, two hundred pounds more were raised to pay soldiers. The assessors having made out the tax-lists, graduated in the paper currency, the town voted "that the tax bills be returned to the assessors, and that they be reduced to hard-money currency." This year virtually terminated the war; the last requisition made was in March, 1782, when the town was required to furnish its quota of soldiers for three years. Asa Baldwin, Jeremiah Whittemore, and Ezekiel Newton were the Committee of Safety during 1782, James Hathaway, Jonas Muzzy, and Isaac Morgan, in 1783, and James Livermore, Jeremiah Whittemore, and John Watson, in 1784, when the office was abolished.

This outline of the town's doings in the Revolution shows their devotedness to the principles for which the war was fought, and that the people "freely, fully, and solemnly" kept their pledge to sustain Congress in declaring the independence of the Colonies from Great Britain. The number of soldiers furnished by the town during the war has never been ascertained.

Before the close of the war the Continental currency had become worthless; the State was largely in debt, and to meet its payments large taxes were imposed upon the people, and this town was very active in remonstrating against this course. John Bisco, their representative, was instructed to request the General Court to repeal an act which had been passed levying a tax upon articles of trade, or otherwise "redress grievances too palpable to be denied, and too great to be borne." Obtaining no relief from the Legislature, conventions were held, "to take into consideration the many grievances the good people of this Commonwealth labor under." Isaac Jenks was the representative to the General Court in 1782, and among his many instructions were these:—"To procure laws to be passed, that no suit should be commenced



without previous notification to the debtor; that State notes and certificates be a legal tender for all debts, as gold and silver were; that all property attached for debt should be appraised to the creditor to satisfy his debt." Executions were issued against the constables in 1784 for two years' delinquent State taxes. In 1785, a petition was sent to the General Court, praying them "to establish a bank of paper money," or property of all kinds be made a tender for payment of debts. A special town meeting was called June 8, 1786, "to see if the Town will take into consideration the present distress of the people of this Commonwealth, caused by a want of a circulating medium to satisfy the demands now called for." A committee was chosen to attend a convention of the adjoining towns, to be held at Leicester; and they were instructed, "to use their best endeavors to obtain a bank of paper money." It was also voted to petition the Court of Common Pleas to adjourn all suits from June to September. Among the list of grievances reported to the General Court was, "the existence of the judicial courts" declaring that they "conceived their existence to be a great and unnecessary burthen upon the people, and that they may be abolished." The attempt to overawe the court at Worcester was participated in by a company from this town, who were armed and equipped with powder and balls. About this time, the town's magazine was broken open, and the stock of arms and ammunition removed. As the annual meeting for 1787 was called by John Bisco, a justice of the peace, upon a petition to him from the citizens, representing that the majority of the selectmen were out of town, it is inferred that they had some connection with the removal of the town's stock. Four citizens afterwards made an apology to the town for their connection with the affair. Some of the town's people joined the insurgents at New Braintree, and one of them, David May, was obliged to pay large damages to David Young, who was wounded in attempting to disband the company in which May was. After the insurrection was quelled, the records show that a large number were obliged to take the oath of allegiance before John Bisco. The sentiment of the people in reference to Shays' Insurrection is shown in the vote for Governor in 1787. John Hancock, who was supposed to be in favor of a lenient course towards those of the insurgents who had been arrested and were then imprisoned, and of a change of policy in administering State affairs, received eighty-seven votes; while Gov. Bowdoin received only seven. After the election the trouble quietly subsided. In 1791 it was voted, "to take fifteen shillings on the pound for what the State owes the town."

There is nothing to show that the town ever took any official action in the war of 1812 or the Mexican war.

The Civil war in 1861 found the inhabitants of Spencer as patriotic as they were in 1775. On the day after the firing upon the sixth regiment at Baltimore a warrant was posted calling a town meeting, April 29, "to see what measures the town will take to furnish outfits and uniforms for a company of volunteers about to be organized for the service of the government." At this



meeting the selectmen and assessors were chosen a committee of safety, "whose duty it shall be to supervise, expend and lay out for the purposes mentioned in the above article such a sum or sums, not exceeding five thousand dollars, as may be necessary." At this time the selectmen were Luther Hill, Dexter Bullard, Joshua Bemis, Josiah Green, Jr., and Jeremiah W. Drake; the assessors were Nathan Hersey, David Bemis and George L. Hobbs. It was voted "to pay each member of the volunteer company seventy-five cents for each one-half day they drilled within the next thirty days." The committee of safety were authorized to pay to each member of the volunteer company ten dollars per month while in actual service, in addition to government pay. A recruiting committee of eleven, one from each school district, was chosen. A flag was purchased for the town house, and the ladies were invited to procure a banner for the company. The volunteers were organized with William T. Harlow as captain, and joined the twenty-first regiment as company C.

At a meeting in August the selectmen were authorized to furnish aid to soldiers' families; and, if that furnished by the State was not enough, to draw a sum sufficient for their comfortable support. Ten dollars was voted to each volunteer. In 1862 the poll-taxes of volunteers were abated, and a bounty of one hundred dollars offered to thirty-two persons who would enlist for one year, and fifty dollars more if they remained in service over one year. Under the call for nine months' men the town offered one hundred dollars bounty. Of the three hundred and thirty-two enrolled militia in 1863, seventy-five were in active service. In 1864 thirty-two men were furnished, and paid bounties from \$270 to \$285. The whole number of soldiers credited to the town during the war was three hundred and thirteen. July 13, 1863, sixty-eight men were drafted. Eight of these went into service; two furnished substitutes; four deserted; nineteen paid three hundred dollars; and the balance were exempted.

While the soldiers were in the field, the ladies at home were contributing their mite. A soldiers' aid association was organized Oct. 28, 1861; and clothing and other articles sent to the soldiers at the front, and their families at home cared for. Money was collected by means of fairs and other entertainments. The whole amount collected while the society was in existence was about two thousand dollars.

When the new town hall was built, memorial tablets were put in on each side of the platform, inscribed with the names of thirty-two soldiers who lost their lives in the service. Each year since the war the graves of these soldiers have been decorated with flowers, and public exercises are held in the town hall: the town appropriating two hundred dollars annually for these purposes. A post of the Grand Army was organized, and named after Frazar A. Stearns, who was a lieutenant in the twenty-first regiment and was killed at Newbern, N. C., March 4, 1862.

Slavery existed here in the early days of the town. The census of 1764

shows that the number of negroes was five. This marriage is found on the town records:—"February 19, 1778, Saul and Dinah, negro servants of John Sumner, Esq., were married." Others were owned by Rev. Mr. Eaton, John White, John Elliot, Rev. Mr. Pope and Robert Luther.

As before stated, the inconvenience of attending church was one of the reasons for the division of the town of Leicester. In 1739 a committee of the settlers in the west part met the proprietors in Boston, "to consider some way to have the Gospel preached among the settlers, and to be freed from paying towards the support of the minister of the easterly part of the said town." The proprietors agreed to tax their lands for this object; and in 1740 a tax of three pence per acre was laid upon their lands for that year, and a tax of two pence per acre annually for two years, "for building a good substantial meeting-house, forty-five feet long and thirty-five feet wide, on the land of Nathaniel Cunningham, where he and the settlers shall agree, and towards a minister's support." In February of that year two acres of land were deeded to the town by Mr. Cunningham "for the accommodation of the meeting-house and for a training field and for such other public uses as the town shall direct forever." The house was erected in 1743, but it never was completely finished. The outside walls were covered with unplanned boards. At first, only the pews next the walls were built, being fourteen in number, and four in the gallery. Afterwards, four seats were built on each side of the centre-aisle. The men occupied the seats on the west side of the church, and the women those on the east side. The young people occupied the gallery. In 1767 the house was clapboarded from the proceeds obtained from the sale of four pews. In 1759, by leave of the General Court, the ministerial land, containing 105 acres and 108 rods, was sold for \$336.67. The old structure served the parish until 1772, when a contract was made with David Baldwin to erect a new house, fifty-six feet long and forty-seven feet wide, with a porch at each end. It contained thirteen windows on each side and nine windows at each end. The body of the house contained forty-six pews, and the gallery twenty-three. The price paid for the building was seven hundred pounds, with the privilege of using the good material of the old house. The contractor agreed to take the pews for a portion of his pay, and they were appraised at five hundred pounds. In 1802 a tower and cupola with a bell was added to the house, \$426.87 being raised by subscription. In 1838 it was enlarged and entirely remodeled. In 1843 a high wind blew over the steeple, and it went through the roof and did great damage. The house was destroyed by fire in December, 1860, and the present church afterwards erected on its site by Barnes & Mullett.

The first pastor was Joshua Eaton, who commenced preaching in 1743. A church was founded in 1744, and the ordination of Mr. Eaton took place Nov. 7, 1744. He had a salary of one hundred and fifty pounds, with the land tax, voted by the proprietors, and a sum raised by sub-



scription for a settlement. Five pounds were to be added annually to the salary, until it should be two hundred pounds. In 1748 one hundred pounds were added, and in 1766 it was made equal to two hundred and forty-four dollars.\* Mr. Eaton was born in Waltham in 1714, and graduated at Harvard in 1735. He remained pastor of the church until his death, April 2, 1772. During his pastorate there was considerable trouble in reference to the hymn-book which should be used; that of Sternhold and Hopkins having been employed. In 1761 the church took a vote upon the subject, and there were thirty-three for the old book, fourteen for Dr. Watts', and six for Brady and Tate's. The subject was then referred to three ministers, who advised the church to use Brady and Tate's on trial for six months. In 1769, after trial of this book, the church voted that the old book be used in connection with Dr. Watts'. Finally, in October, 1769, by a vote of twenty-six to six, Dr. Watts' Psalms and Hymns was adopted. At this time the singers sat among the congregation, and it was not until 1783 that they were allowed to sit together in the gallery. When this innovation was made, one gentleman told the minister, "If you give your encouragement to such improprieties, I will serve you a trick that the devil would n't — I will leave you." This appears to be the only dissension that occurred during Rev. Mr. Eaton's ministry.

Rev. Joseph Pope succeeded Mr. Eaton, and was ordained Oct. 20, 1773, with a salary of two hundred and forty-four dollars a year. He received four hundred and forty-four dollars as settlement. He was born in Pomfret, Conn., in 1746, and graduated at Harvard in 1770. He occupied the pulpit until November, 1818, when he had a shock of paralysis, and died March 8, 1826. During his pastorate the society was at many times unable, on account of the demands of the war, to pay him his full salary; but their relations were always pleasant, and he was highly esteemed.

During the illness of Mr. Pope, Rev. Stephen Crosby supplied the pulpit, and in March, 1819, he was invited to become their pastor, and was ordained in June, with a salary of six hundred and fifty dollars per annum. He was dismissed May 31, 1825.

Rev. Levi Packard was the next minister, and was ordained June 14, 1826, with a salary of four hundred and seventy-five dollars, and the use of a house. He was dismissed in September, 1853.

Rev. Stephen G. Dodd, the next minister, was installed August 23, 1854, with a salary, including house, of eight hundred and twenty-five dollars. His dismissal took place October, 1860. Rev. Thomas T. Waterman succeeded

\* The General Court, in 1749, passed an act abolishing *old tenor*, and substituted what was called *new tenor* in its stead. The currency was greatly depreciated and irregular, and this act was a great relief to the community. At the time this act was passed, twenty shillings, old tenor, was equal to two shillings and eightpence, lawful money, or about forty-four cents. Consequently, the salary of Mr. Eaton, for his first year, being 150 pounds, old tenor, was equal to \$33.67, and a tax of twopence, old tenor, per acre, calculating 20,000 acres of land for the town, would be about \$74.83.



him, and was installed June 5, 1861. During his ministry the church was destroyed by fire, and services were held in the town hall. He sent his resignation to the church Sept. 8, 1862, but it was not accepted until the installation of Rev. James Cruickshanks, Jan. 13, 1864. Mr. Cruickshanks' dismissal took place July 12, 1871. There was not a regular minister until Sept. 16, 1873, when Rev. Harrison A. Shorey was installed. He was dismissed Dec. 21, 1876, and Rev. A. S. Walker, the present pastor, was installed Nov. 14, 1877.

A Baptist church was organized June 30, 1819, and a church built in the north-east part of the town, so as to accommodate adjoining towns. Regular services were held until about 1850; after that time there was occasional preaching for several years, until the church was sold to private parties. In 1878 another church was organized, under the charge of Rev. O. S. C. Wallace, and regular services are held in a private hall.

A Universalist Society was organized April 22, 1830, consisting of ten members. A church was built in 1833, and regular services were held until about 1850, when the church was sold. Occasional services were held in the town hall until 1877, when a new society was organized, with Rev. F. A. Bisbee as pastor.

A Methodist society was organized in 1811, and services held in the town hall until 1847, when a church was erected. Rev. Austin F. Herrick is, at present, pastor of the church. Through the liberality of William Henshaw, Esq., this church was re-built in 1872-3, and made one of the most attractive public buildings in the town.

A Catholic church was erected in 1853. Rev. Julius Cosson and Rev. Thomas D. Beaven are the pastors at the present time. The Catholics comprise nearly one-half of the population of the town.

Nearly one acre of the land given to the town by Nathaniel Cunningham was appropriated for a burying-ground, and was the only one in the place for many years. Additional land has been purchased from time to time, until it comprises three acres. In 1797, a house was built for a hearse, and a pall was also purchased. A fund of about three thousand dollars has been raised by former and present residents, the income of which is used in improving the grounds, and keeping them in good condition. The first person buried in the cemetery was Elizabeth Adams, in December, 1742. Many of the stones which marked the graves of the old settlers have disappeared, being only common stones. But few burials are made in this cemetery now, except by those who have owned lots for some time, a new cemetery having been laid out on the bank of the Seven Mile River. This comprises many acres, and is beautifully situated, and tastefully laid out. It is known as "Pine Grove Cemetery." The Catholics have a large cemetery on the old county road, and it is being improved each year.

## CHAPTER III.

DISTINGUISHED MEN — AGRICULTURE AND OTHER BUSINESS — MANUFACTURES —  
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION — NEWSPAPER — SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS —  
FINANCE — PROFESSIONAL MEN — PUBLIC CHARACTERS — INTERESTING AND  
CURIOUS OLD TOWN BUSINESS — THE TOWN POUND.

SPENCER has produced but few men of note ; but one of these has done as much to improve the condition of the people as any man that has ever lived. Elias Howe, the inventor of the sewing-machine, was born in this town, July 9, 1819. His youthful days were spent upon his father's farm in the south part of the town, until he went to Lowell, where he commenced to work on his machine. His first invention was patented Sept. 10, 1846. Although he was involved in many suits to protect his rights, he generally triumphed, and died wealthy, in Brooklyn, N. Y., Oct. 3, 1867. William Howe, an uncle of Elias, born May 12, 1803, was the inventor of the "truss wooden bridge," which has been successfully used in bridging large streams. The large roof of the Boston and Albany Railroad depot, in Boston, was constructed by him, and was considered a very difficult undertaking at that time.

Agriculture was the occupation of the people of Spencer for many years, with the exception of a few grist and saw mills scattered throughout the town, where there was sufficient water, but the changes during one hundred years are, in this respect, very marked. The town is now one of the leading boot manufacturing towns in the State. From this industry most of the people acquire their living and many of the farmers have small shops on their farms, where they work upon boots when their crops do not require attention. While the manufacture of boots is the leading industry, there are others which furnish employment to many persons. There are four woolen-mills, two wire-mills, two box-mills and one heel manufactory. The census of 1875 gives the occupation of the inhabitants as follows : Clergymen, 4 ; physicians, 6 ; teachers, 20 ; clerks, 22 ; merchants and traders, 47 ; railroad employés, 11 ; salesmen, 3 ; teamsters, 24 ; farmers, 152 ; hostlers, 9 ; boot and shoe makers, 1,108 ; tinsmiths, 7 ; carpenters, 51 ; masons, 13 ; painters, 16 ; blacksmiths, 13 ; printers, 8 ; woolen-factory operatives, 109 ; wire-makers, 50 ; box-makers, 14 ; laborers, 34 ; retired, 3 ; housewives, 1,111 ; housekeepers, 22 ; housework, 56 ; domestic servants, 54 ; seamstresses, 5 ; dressmakers, 10 ; milliners, 3. In 1875, the agricultural productions were \$189,162, while the products of manufacture were \$2,889,116. Other industries have been established but they are now extinct. The most important of these was the manufacture of powder by Lewis Bemis and Edward Hall. In 1837, there were two of these mills and 162,500 pounds of powder were manufactured, of the value of \$14,500. In 1850, the products were twenty-five tons, valued at \$15,000.



April 21, 1840, one of these mills was destroyed by explosion, and three men were killed. In October of the same year, another mill blew up, but no one was injured. Nov. 4, 1853, another explosion occurred, and five men were killed. Soon after this the business was given up.

The making of palm-leaf hats afforded the housewife means to obtain "pin money" for herself and family, and these were disposed of at the stores or sold to collectors. In 1837, there were 29,600 hats made, of the value of \$700.

The small water-power in the main village was put to use at an early day. In 1810, a woolen-mill was erected on Elm Street, on the site of Capin's mill, and it was run by Jabez Howe, Willard Rice and John Jenks for several years, until sold to Amos Brown & Co. Soon after the erection of this mill a second one was erected near the site of Livermore's box-shop, and occupied by Chapin & Prouty. In 1837, there were employed in these two mills, thirty-one males and twenty-three females; thirty-four thousand yards of cloth were manufactured, valued at eighty-seven thousand dollars. In 1837, Brown & Co.'s factory was destroyed by fire, and, in 1839, Chapin & Prouty's suffered the same fate. They were soon rebuilt. About 1840, William Henshaw and Silas and Nathaniel Eldridge came from Worcester and engaged in the manufacture of cotton and satinnet goods. The "Westville" mill was erected by Nathaniel Eldridge about that time. In 1850, H. J. Lyman & Co., Thomas H. Shorey and William Henshaw were making satinnet, and Nathaniel Eldridge, cotton goods. The production at that time was valued at fifty-eight thousand dollars. Since that time there have been many changes in the ownership of these mills, and in the quality and kind of goods made. There are at present four factories in operation owned by Upham & Sagendorph, Upham & Ladd, Upham & Kelly and Upham & Stanley. In 1875, the production of these mills was valued at three hundred and forty thousand dollars. The mill occupied by Upham & Kelly was, when it was first erected, about 1845, used as a wheel manufactory.

One of the important industries of the town is that of wire-making, which is carried on in "Wire Village" about two miles from the Centre. Located on Seven-Mile River, it has the largest water-power in the town. The first saw-mill erected in the town was built near the site of Sugden & Myrick's saw-mill, about 1740, by James Wilson. The war of 1812 stopped the supply of wire from England for the card factories in Leicester, and induced Americans to take hold of the business. In that year Elliot Prouty commenced wire-drawing in a mill near the saw-mill. After the declaration of peace the business died out and Mr. Prouty went West. He returned in 1820, and with his brother, Russell Prouty, resumed the business. After a few years, Foster Bisco bought them out, and he in turn sold to his brother, Roswell Bisco. In 1847, he sold out to Nathaniel Myrick and Richard Sugden. Lower down the stream, Eli Hatch carded wool for many years, and, in 1830, he com-

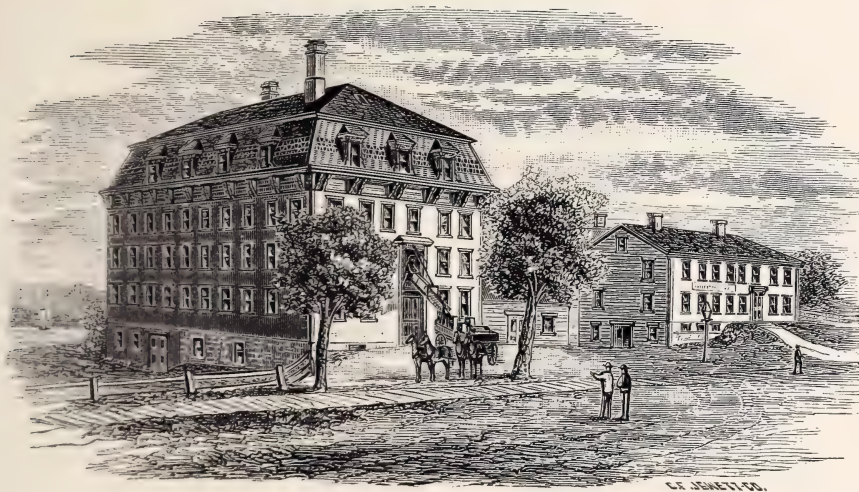


menced the wire business. He was succeeded by Liberty Prouty, and after his death the business was carried on by his sons, Jonas R. and Joel E. Prouty. In 1876, the Spencer Wire Company was formed, and the wire business of the upper and lower village is now done under that name. In 1837, there were ten tons of wire manufactured by four mills, employing ten hands; the value of the wire was \$10,480. The value of the wire manufactured in 1850 was \$14,100; in 1860, \$80,000, and in 1875, about \$150,000.

The manufacture of scythes, hoes and cutlery was carried on by Ziba Eaton in the upper "Wire Village," between 1830 and 1850. In the latter year one hundred and twenty dozen of scythes were made, valued at \$1,200. This business was given up about 1855.

The manufacture of sale boots began early in the present century. It is said that Charles Watson of Spencer made the first venture, but it did not prove a financial success. He made eighty-four pairs in 1809, and sold them to a Southern trader for four dollars and fifty cents per pair, and never received his pay. The real founder of this enterprise was Josiah Green. He and his brother Nathaniel started in the business of making sale boots in Leicester in the winter of 1811-12, with a capital of ninety-five dollars, Josiah contributing six and Nathaniel eighty-five. They worked in their mother's garret and used "card splits." The boots cost \$1.25 per pair. In the summer, Josiah, being at the time nineteen years of age, started for Boston with a horse-load. He found it difficult to dispose of them, but finally an auctioneer took half a dozen pair on trial. They sold so well that he took the remainder of the load at \$2.30 per pair. The next summer Josiah took a load of seven hundred pairs to Albany, N. Y., and sold them to army contractors at \$2.25 per pair. In 1815, the brothers dissolved and Josiah's share of the profits for the three years amounted to fifteen hundred dollars. In 1817, he moved to Spencer, and manufactured boots in his house. He disposed of them by carrying them about the country and selling at the stores. Soon after 1817, he commenced to use pegs. His house was his workshop until 1837, when he erected the old shop still standing on the old county road, and adorned with a plain but historical sign, "Josiah Green's boot manufactory, established in 1812." Such was the humble beginning of an industry which has not only built up this town but many others throughout the New England States, and has become one of the leading branches of industry of this country. Mr. Green continued in business until 1867, when he retired, leaving it to his three sons. He died in 1876. When it was found that the business was a paying one others engaged in it with more or less success.

In 1820, Isaac Prouty commenced to make boots for the trade in a small shop in what is called "North Spencer." In 1855, he moved to the village and erected a shop, which formerly stood near the Methodist church. This soon became too small for his business; and, in 1859, a portion of the present factory was erected, and soon after his sons were admitted as partners. Addi-



JOSIAH GREEN & CO.'S BOOT FACTORY, SPENCER, MASS.





tions have been made to the factory, and at the present time it is four hundred and fifty-five feet long and five stories high, and is claimed to be the largest boot factory in the world. Isaac Prouty died in 1871, and the business is now conducted by his three sons. In 1837, one hundred and sixty-two males and twenty-eight females were employed in making boots and shoes; 52,091 pairs of boots were made, and 2,940 pairs of shoes, their value was \$106,496. In 1850, there were six boot factories in operation, owned by Josiah Green, Isaac Prouty, Grout, Bush & Co., A. T. & E. Jones, Charles E. Denny and Watson, Bemis & Co. The value of boots manufactured was two hundred and fifteen thousand dollars. In 1860 there were seven firms, Josiah Green & Co., Isaac Prouty & Co., Grout, Bush & Co., A. T. & E. Jones, David Prouty & Co., Livermore & Drury and C. & G. Watson. The amount of capital invested was one hundred and thirty-three thousand dollars, and the value of production five hundred and twenty thousand dollars. At the present time the firms manufacturing boots are Josiah Green & Co., E. Jones & Co., Bullard & Temple, David Prouty & Co., Isaac Prouty & Co., Bush & Grout, E. E. Kent & Co., Prouty Bros., J. E. Bacon and David A. Drury. The amount of capital invested in the business in 1875 was \$525,040, and the value of goods produced \$2,155,429. The boot manufacturers have suffered but little from fires. The only losses from this cause are those of David A. Drury, whose factory was entirely destroyed by fire in the winter of 1874, and Bush & Grout, their factory being burned in December, 1875. The latter was the largest fire that ever occurred in the town, the factory and five other buildings being burned. Connected with the boot business are those of currying and box-making. The former business was carried on for some years previous to 1860 by Edward Proctor and Joseph W. Morse, since that time the business has entirely disappeared. The business of making boxes for boots has been a growing one, to correspond to the growth of the boot business, and the farmers have found a ready and good market for their pine lumber. The business is now conducted by Ebenezer Howe and Warren J. Livermore. The products of this industry, in 1875, were valued at forty thousand dollars. The manufacture of shoe heels is carried on by William A. Barr; the products, in 1875, were valued at eleven thousand dollars. The manufacture of chairs has been carried on for many years in "Hillsville" by Sullivan Hill. These are the most important of the industries carried on in the town at present.

In 1871, Isaac Prouty, Henry R. Green and Erastus Jones were incorporated as the Spencer Savings Bank. The office was for some time in the counting-room of E. Jones & Co. until the erection of the "Bank Block" in 1875. In that year the Spencer National Bank was incorporated with a capital of \$150,000. Erastus Jones is president, and W. L. Demond, cashier.

"The Centennial" was observed by a procession of the different societies and the fire department, an oration by Hon. Geo. B. Loring and a dinner in the town hall.

A weekly newspaper, "The Spencer Sun," was established in 1872, by Samuel G. Ames. The present proprietor is James Pickup.

A Masonic lodge was established in 1872, a lodge of Odd Fellows in 1877, and an order of the Improved Red Men in the same year, and a council of the Royal Arcanum in 1879. The Irish have a lodge of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and the French the St. John Baptist Society. The latter is the largest organization in the place, numbering over four hundred. In 1821, the "Ladies' Benevolent Society" connected with the Congregational church was formed. Of the first forty members, only Mrs. Jeremiah Grout and Mrs. Dennis Ward survive.

The town debt in 1855 was \$6,215; in 1860, \$2,660; in 1865, \$18,886; in 1870, \$5,984; in 1875, \$56,300. This debt was incurred by the erection of the town hall. The debt at present is about \$60,000.

The early physicians of the town were James Ormes, Asa Burden, William Frink, Benjamin Drury, Jonas Guilford, Cheney Potter, Asa Jones, Jonas Guilford and Edward C. Dyer. James Ormes settled here in 1732. The present physicians are Edward M. Wheeler, Marquis Hall, Charles L. Kingsbury, Edward R. Wheeler, I. Verner, O. S. Chapman and Marc Fontaine. Others have been here for a short time. Charles P. Barton and Edward W. Bowe practice dentistry. The first lawyer who located in town was Bradford Sumner in 1813. He remained but a few weeks. John Davis commenced his professional career here in 1815. He removed to Worcester in 1816, and was afterward a Representative to Congress for ten years, Governor of the State for three terms and Senator in Congress for two terms. The other lawyers have been William S. Andrews, located in 1816; Daniel Knight, in 1817; Napoleon B. Smith, in 1852; William T. Harlow, in 1854, and Albert W. Curtis, in 1874. Mr. Harlow, at the beginning of the war, in 1861, formed a company and joined the 21st Regiment. He is now assistant-clerk of the Superior Court for the county. The criminal business of the town was done for many years by John Bisco, Esq., then by James Draper, Esq. In 1858 Luther Hill was commissioned a Trial Justice, and still remains in the office.

The following persons have been connected with the State government:—William Upham, Councillor in 1878-9; Senators: James Draper in 1831-2, William Upham in 1859, and Luther Hill in 1867; Delegates to the Constitutional Conventions: John Bisco in 1779, James Draper in 1820, and Jabez Green in 1853; Representatives to the General Court: Oliver Watson in 1775-76-77-80, John Bisco in 1777-80-81, John Muzzy in 1779, Isaac Jenks, 1782 to '86; James Hathaway, 1787 to 1794; Benjamin Drury, 1794 to 1811; Jonas Muzzy, 1811-12; Phineas Jones, 1812; James Draper, 1813 to 1819; William Bemis, 1820; Rufus Adams, 1823; William Pope, 1827; James Draper, 1828 to 1832; Rufus Adams, 1832; Walton Livermore, 1831; David Prouty, 1833-34; Lewis Bemis, 1834-35; Amos Brown, 1835; James Draper, 1836-37; Dennis Ward, 1836-37-39-47-56; Walter Sibley, 1838; Eleazer B.



Draper, 1839-40-41-45; Jonas Guilford, 1842; Jabez Green, 1843-44-50; Milton Boyden, 1848; William Baldwin, 1851; Alonzo Temple, 1852; Alanson Prouty, 1853; William Henshaw, 1854; William Upham, 1857-72; John L. Bush, 1859; George L. Hobbs, 1861; Luther Hill, 1863-65-70; Dexter Bullard, 1867; Erastus Jones, 1874; David Prouty, 1876, and James H. Ames in 1878. Spencer, for several years after its incorporation, elected a representative alone. Then a representative district was formed of Spencer and Leicester. In 1866 the towns of Auburn, Charlton, Leicester, Spencer and Southbridge were formed into a representative district. In 1876 Oxford, Southbridge, Charlton and Spencer were made a district. Since the incorporation of the town there have been twenty-two clerks. Benjamin Drury held the office for thirty-two successive years from 1787 to 1820. One hundred and forty persons have held the office of selectman, from five to three being elected each year; the latter number has been elected for several years. James Watson held the office for twenty-three successive years, from 1785 to 1809; Jonas Muzzy for nineteen years, Benjamin Drury for sixteen years, and David Prouty for fifteen years. The town has had twenty-one treasurers. John Bisco was treasurer for twenty-one years; Horace A. Grout, the present treasurer, was first elected in 1868. The town has had eighty different persons for assessors. John Bisco held the office for twenty-three years, David Prouty for seventeen years, Thomas Sprague for eighteen years, James Draper for twenty-seven years, and David Bemis, one of the present assessors, has held the office for thirty-five years. Luther Hill has been moderator at twenty annual meetings. Since the formation of the Republican party the voters have given large majorities for its candidates. In 1864 the vote for Governor was three hundred and fifty-four for John A. Andrew, and fifty-three for Henry W. Paine. At the first election of Governor, in 1780, John Hancock had sixty-nine votes and no opposition, and in 1783-84-90-91 and '93 he had no opposition. In 1794-95 Samuel Adams had sixty-one votes each year, with no opposition.

In 1757 it was voted that the town meetings, for the future, be warned by the constables going from house to house.

At the annual meeting in March, 1784, it was voted "that each person keep on his hat, if he pleases, while in the meeting."

At a meeting held Dec. 10, 1821, it was voted "that leave be given to put stoves into the meeting-house, by subscription, and without any cost to the town, under the inspection of the selectmen." This is the first record of any heating of the church, and for several years afterwards the town voted "not to furnish fuel for the stoves in the meeting-house."

At the March meeting in 1831 it was voted "to appropriate \$100 towards purchasing a fire-engine for the town, and for the erection of a building to contain it." The hand engine was purchased soon afterwards.

May 5, 1803, it was voted "to allow seventeen cents bounty on crows till the first day of July next, to be paid by the Town Treasurer."



The town has been but little troubled with contagious diseases. The following petition appears upon the town records, dated Sept. 13, 1792:—

*"To the Gentlemen Selectmen of the Town of Spencer:* Humbly sheweth that by reason of the prevalency of the Small Pox in this State, and the stage passengers quartering at Mr. Isaac Jenks, that he and his family are in the greatest danger of taking the infection, if they have not as yet taken it, whereby the inhabitants of said town may be greatly indangered, without a place or house being appointed to receive him and others, think it necessary that the Selectmen forthwith call a meeting of the Inhabitants of said town, to see if the town will indulge said Jenks and family only, and others if the town see fit, the liberty of being enoculated with the small pox in some house."

Two meetings were held on the above petition, and the town "voted to take no action thereon." In 1872 small-pox was quite prevalent among the French inhabitants."

An article in a warrant, Nov. 12, 1821, was "to see if the town will purchase a farm and other accommodations for the use of the town's poor." A committee of five was chosen to consider the subject, and they reported in favor of buying a farm. It was not until Sept. 19, 1825, that the town took final action on the subject, and purchased the farms of Eleazer B. Draper, containing 96 acres, for \$2,600, and of Joseph Cheever, containing 66½ acres, for \$1,650. These constitute the present town farm. The cost of supporting the poor at that time was about \$800. At the present time \$3,000 is used for that purpose. In this connection the following notice may be of interest:—

*"To the Selectmen of Spencer:*

GENTLEMEN,—I hereby acquaint you in a formal manner that a certain mollatto girl, called Naomie Cady, whom I have had in my family in the state and capacity of a minor, for a number of years, has arrived at the age of twenty-one years, on the 2d day of this instant, and is capable of acquiring a legal right of habitation in this town if measures be not taken to prevent it.

Jos. POPE."

"SPENCER, July 5, 1793."

An article in a warrant, Dec. 19, 1777, was "To see if any person will appear to take Phineas Leonard for any reasonable compensation for the ensuing year."

March 10, 1766, it was voted "that the Selectmen for the time being shall act discretionary with regard to warning persons to depart out of this district, who are not legal inhabitants."

The town pound, when first erected, was built upon the common, near the church. The date of its erection is not known. In March, 1768, it was voted "to build a new pound with stone; said pound is to be 30 feet within, the walls six feet and a half high and capt with timber." Seven pounds was appropriated for building it. It appears that it was as little used then as the pound is at the present day, for in a warrant dated March 26, 1772, was an article "to see if the District will take the pound to help underpin the meeting-house." The

vote was in the negative. In 1790 the town voted "not to take the pound to fence the burying-ground and erect another in some suitable place." In 1791 it was voted "not to move the pound." At this time there was a demand for more room on the common for horse-sheds, and in 1796 half an acre of land was bought of Rev. Joseph Pope to enlarge it, and in March of that year it was voted "to build a town pound on Mr. Jeremiah Whittemore's land, at the corner of the town road where it turns to Benjamin Gleason's, of the same bigness of the old one, three sides of stone and one of wood." The pound was constructed by Mr. Whittemore for eleven pounds, and finished in November of that year. In 1825 the pound was repaired, but it has been used but little. For many years it was voted at the annual meeting "that swine run at large, being yoked and ringed as the law directs." In the early days of the district cattle were allowed to pasture upon the common; for in 1754 it was voted "that strangers' cattle should be charged two shillings and eighteen pence per head, and sheep one shilling per head, to run on the common."

A history of the town was written by James Draper, Esq., in 1840, and re-written by him in 1860.

## STERLING.

BY REV. ABIJAH P. MARVIN.

## CHAPTER I.

FORMATION AND ORIGIN — PHYSICAL ASPECTS — INDIAN DEALINGS — PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENT — RAIDS AND DISTRESSES — WAR HISTORY — INCORPORATION — NOTES AND INCIDENTS.

FROM a corner of the ample domain of Lancaster, was the town of Sterling carved, yet it is one of the larger towns of the Commonwealth, being above the average in the number of square miles. The Indian name for this section of the old town was Woonsechocksett, which, in the usage of the the white men, was parted in the middle, and spelled Chocksett, or Choxett. Sometimes one of the t's was omitted. The aborigines, in their idleness, would find time to pronounce long and hard-sounding words, which the busy Yankee broke into small and portable parts of speech. The town contains between twenty-seven and twenty-eight square miles of territory, and seventeen thousand three hundred and sixty-one acres of land.

The centre is in latitude  $42^{\circ} 26'$ , and it is twelve miles in right line to the court-house in Worcester. The distance to Boston is about forty miles. By rail or road, the distance to both places is somewhat increased.

The surface of the country is very uneven, being broken into large and lesser hills in every part, yet there is very little "unimprovable land" in the town. In this respect the soil is divided as follows in the State census, 1875. Land under crops — acres,  $4,309\frac{3}{4}$ ; orchards,  $28\frac{1}{2}$ ; unimproved land,  $9,142\frac{3}{4}$ ; woodland,  $3,826\frac{1}{2}$ ; unimprovable land,  $53\frac{1}{2}$  acres. The soil was naturally good, being moist and fertile; and it is "improvable," to a high degree, under the hand of skilled labor. It is good for tillage, pasturage, and mowing. All kinds of grain and vegetables, common to New England, are produced in abundance.

As the town lies between the Nashua Valley on the east, and the valley of Still River on the west, it is made up of several irregularly parallel ridges extending north and south, with pleasant valleys between them. There are four or five elevations that take the name of distinct hills, but most of them



belong to ranges of unequal height. The west flank of George Hill is in Sterling. Redstone Hill, so called from the stone colored with iron, is east of the centre. Kendall Hill is south by east of the centre. Fitch's Hill is directly west of the centre. Rowley's Hill is north of this, and Justice Hill is in the extreme north-west part of the town. The first four form a barrier round the centre, with openings north and south. On the east side of the central village a stream flows north into Wekepekit Brook, and enters the Nashua in the west of Lancaster. Another brook flows south, on the west side of the village, into Waushacum Lake. These hills, and the long ridges to which they belong, are all covered with living green to their rolling summits, as are the valleys between. In the middle of the south end of the town is West Waushacum Pond, or lake, covering one hundred and eighty acres. East of this, some sixty rods, lies East Waushacum, having an area of one hundred and ninety acres. This is connected with the other by a brook, and the waters of both lakes are discharged by an everflowing stream into Still River, near Oakdale. These lakes are unsurpassed by any in the county, in the combination of particulars which make up delightful scenery. The water is pure and sweet. The shores are partly wooded and partly cultivated land. The borders and bottom are sandy or pebbly, and the sides wind in many graceful curves that delight the eye. The land in one direction is level; in another rises in gentle swells; and, in still another, in bolder outlines. In plain sight rises the rounded mass of Wachusett. Nor are these lakes without a wild and tender historical interest. Here, between the lakes, or just on the southern side of the intervening land, was the capital of Sholan, the good sachem, who welcomed the English, and always lived in amity with them. In his wigwam Indian councils were held, and around it were Indian games and sports. Here was a church of converted Indians, with their pastor, elder, deacon, and constable, armed with a "black staff and power," to keep the peace and suppress powwows and drunkenness. Here were Indian regattas, called by another name, where the light canoes sped over the water, swift as the pickerel darted beneath. Here came Philip in the spring of 1676, and infused his revengeful and ambitious spirit into Sam, the unworthy grandson of Sholan. And here, also, was what the local annalists are pleased to style the first naval contest in the inland waters of Massachusetts. In May, 1676, Capt. Henchman, when marching towards the Connecticut Valley, was told that a party of the enemy was at Waushacum. He turned hither and surprised a party in their canoes taking fish. He led an instant attack upon them, in their boats, when seven of the Indians were killed, and twenty-nine taken prisoners.

A little north of the west end of East Waushacum, are the *debris* of an old mine, which was formerly wrought with energy, though with poor results. Shafts were sunk as early as 1755 in search of silver ore. A Swede was the head workman, and he was in the mine at the time of the great earthquake. Ore in paying quantities was not found, and the work ceased. The opening

remains, though nearly filled with water. Tradition says the shaft was carried more than a hundred feet into the bowels of the earth, and the mass of broken pieces of "plumbago, nickel, sulphates of copper, and of iron, quartz, and various other minerals," confirm the statement. A rich carbonate of iron, containing ninety per cent. of pure metal, is said to have been the chief product.

It was nearly seventy-seven years after the pioneers of Lancaster had built their log-houses, before the territory now constituting Sterling, received any permanent white settlers. This territory did not, originally, belong to Lancaster. When Sholan sold the land to Thomas King, about 1742-3, he retained all lying west of the Lancaster original line. It was not till about the beginning of the eighteenth century, that Tahanto sold a tract four miles wide, and ten or twelve miles long, west of Lancaster, to John Prescott and others, inhabitants of Lancaster, which purchase was confirmed by a grant of the General Court in 1713. Seven years later, in 1720, the first white settlers took up their abode in this tract. They were the children of Lancaster parents, probably settled, in most cases, on parcels of land which had fallen to their fathers in some of the numerous "divisions" made by the Lancaster proprietors. Gamaliel Beaman, son of John, and grandson of Gamaliel, who came to Lancaster in 1659, was the first permanent resident. He was immediately followed by Samuel Sawyer, Benjamin Houghton, David Osgood, and Jonathan Osgood. They had all erected houses, according to the statement of the late Isaac Goodwin, Esq., before 1726, and they are supposed to have been the only inhabitants at that date. They all settled near each other, north-west of the meeting-house. As the history of Sterling, or Chocksett, as thus named, was included in that of the mother town, until 1740, when it became a precinct or parish, only a few incidents in the early annals will be related in this connection. One or two must have a place.

There was a small tribe of Indians not far from the present centre of the town, with whom the whites lived on terms of friendship. These Indians were allowed to observe their own customs and laws, so far as these did not interfere with the peace and safety of the whites. One of this little tribe, having killed a fellow-Indian, was tried without delay, found guilty, and "forthwith tied to a tree, and shot to death." This was on a Sunday morning, and the murder, arrest, trial, and execution, all took place in the course of a few hours. The whites provided decent grave-clothes for the murdered man, but the "rights of sepulture were denied to the criminal; his mangled remains were thrown, naked, into the same grave with those of his victim."

The other notable event took place before the settlement, but within the bounds, of the present town. The scene has been known as "The Indian Fight," and is situated about three miles north-west of the centre. In 1707, a party of Indians went to Marlborough, and captured Jonathan Wilder, a native of Lancaster. They were pursued and overtaken, when a severe contest began. The Indians were twenty-four in number, and the whites not more



than one-half as many. The Indians, when attacked, killed their prisoner, instead of surrendering him; but they paid dear for their cruelty. Nine of their number were slain, and probably several were wounded. The whites lost two men. If the whole of the pursuing party had joined in the combat, probably few, if any, of the Indians would have escaped.

In 1733, the settlers having increased rapidly in number, and being remote from the meeting-house, petitioned for the right of a township. Their effort was unsuccessful; but in 1743 they were made a corporation, and thus became the Second Parish, or Precinct of Lancaster. This gave them a quasi-independence, and most of their parochial affairs were under their own management. A church was gathered, Dec. 19, 1744, and Rev. John Mellen was settled as pastor.

The dysentery prevailed to such an extent in 1756, that this was called the year of the "great sickness." In a population of about eight hundred, forty-two were buried in seven weeks. The disease was principally among children, but in some cases whole families were cut off. The proportion of deaths to the survivors was one to nineteen. There was what has ever been known as the "great earthquake," in November of the preceding year, and the disease was attributed to that as the cause; because the mortality was greatest in the vicinity of the greatest shock, which was near the corners of Sterling, Holden, and West Boylston — a little north-west of Oakdale. The deaths in Holden were forty; in Sterling, forty-two; and in Boylston, twenty.

In the last French and Indian war, 1756-63, a large number of men were engaged, upwards of twenty of whom fell victims. Four were slain Sept. 8th, 1755, in the "morning action," so called, on Lake George. It was in this war that Col. Asa Whitcomb became conspicuous as a veteran warrior. When the Revolution occurred, he was a leader of the people; and so attached were the soldiers of his regiment to their old commander, that when, at the organization of the army, after the battle of Bunker Hill, he was superseded on account of age, they refused to serve unless he was re-instated. General Washington, after inquiring into the case, immediately restored him to his command. As Chocksett, though still a part of Lancaster, had a distinct military company of its own, and sent many soldiers into the field in the Revolutionary War, under Whitcomb and other officers, the patriotic action of the people deserves this honorable mention.

The inhabitants had never ceased, during forty years, to desire a separate town organization. On one or two occasions Lancaster had consented to the division, but on terms which did not satisfy the residents in Chocksett. As all the expensive bridges were in the valley of the Nashua, and would be a great bill of expense, the old town claimed that the new one should take upon itself some of the cost of keeping up these necessary means of travel and transportation. At one time the Chocksett people agreed to keep open the bridge between South Lancaster and the Old Common — probably because it was on



the main line of travel from their centre to Boston, and therefore presented an equitable claim on their support. But this plan fell through, as did all others, till 1781, when, on the 25th of April, the General Court granted an act of incorporation. The event was hastened by the fact that the people of Chocksett, by way of retaliation for similar action, rallied at a town meeting, and took all the important town offices into their own hands, and voted that the town meetings should be held in their meeting-house. Though the majority of the inhabitants was still with the old town, yet the spirit of the Second Precinct, in achieving this *coup d'état*, brought them to terms, and the town agreed to the plan of separation, and became willing to have their children depart on their own terms. The residents in Chocksett had set their hearts on having a strip, about a mile wide, on the east side of the original west line of Lancaster, assigned to their territory, and carried the point. Indeed, they had their own way in almost every question in controversy. Like a son, too wilful to be under parental control, but whom the parent is still proud of, the new town went off with the old town's benediction. It took the name of Sterling, in honor of Lord Sterling, a Scotch general in the army of the Revolution. By a supplementary act, passed in 1793, all difficulties were removed; and since that period, says the former historian of Sterling, "few towns have lived in greater harmony, or have been more assiduous in the interchange of kind offices than those of Sterling and Lancaster."

The town being now established, its annals will be briefly sketched in the order of time. In the time of Shays' rebellion, some of the inhabitants were in sympathy with the movement, but none of them joined the insurgents in the field. When the question of approving the adoption of the Constitution of the United States was submitted to the people, Sterling was one of the seven towns in the county which chose a delegate to the convention, who voted in the affirmative. This delegate was Capt. Ephraim Wilder, a true son of the old stock of Lancaster Wilders, and grandfather of the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder.

In 1786, and ten years later, the "canker rash," so called, prevailed as an epidemic, and many children died. In each season it was followed by a malignant dysentery, which was very fatal.

The first meeting-house was built by the town of Lancaster, in the year 1742 — about the time when the Second Parish was authorized; but by 1799 it had fallen into decay, and the population had become too numerous to be accommodated within its narrow walls. Measures were therefore taken to erect a new and larger house, which was dedicated on the first Sunday of the year 1800. The cost was \$8,500 — an unusual amount to be devoted to such a purpose, in those days. It was, for many years, the most elegant and costly house of worship in the county.

A fact is stated in connection with the first meeting-house, which shows how great a social revolution occurred in many towns in the time, and in conse-

quence of, the War of the Revolution. The fact is this: the pews in the old meeting-house were never sold, but the people were annually "seated." The man who paid the highest tax had the first choice, and so on in succession. In many places other than money considerations had influence in "dignifying the pews." The changes in property among the inhabitants of Sterling in the Revolution were such that many of the best pews came into the possession of tenants; and thus men of humble origin took the foremost seats "to the great discomfiture of some of the most patrician families." Another fact shows how a patriot in the War of Independence became impoverished on account of his love of country. Col. Whitcomb, besides holding the most important offices in the town, was representative in the General Court, justice of the peace, deacon in the church, and a military officer. He had such zeal in the national cause, and such confidence in his countrymen, that he pledged his whole fortune upon the security of the paper currency. The paper promises became worthless and his whole property was swept away. In old age he removed to Princeton, where he died in abject poverty. But he never lost his character. Conscious integrity and exalted piety raised him above the ordinary misfortunes of life.

The first town house, properly so called, was built in Sterling in 1802-3, it being the universal custom in those days to hold town meetings in the meeting-house. This marks the beginning of an important change for the purpose of preserving the house of worship to its sacred uses.

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## CHAPTER II.

FIRST MEETING-HOUSE — CHURCH CONTROVERSIES — PASTORAL SUCCESSION —  
OTHER RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES — AGRICULTURE — MECHANIC INDUSTRIES —  
HOTEL — SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION — THE WAR OF THE REBELLION — LOCAL  
FEATURES, CLIMATE, &c. — NOTABLE AND WORTHY PEOPLE.

A BRIEF view of ecclesiastical affairs may be taken at this point in the history of the town. The first meeting-house in Chocksett was built, as we have seen, in 1742. A church was formed, Dec. 9, 1744, and the Rev. John Mellen was ordained at the same time. His wife was Rebecca, a daughter of the Rev. John Prentice. Mr. Mellen was a man of superior ability and of competent learning. Perhaps he had no equal in the vicinity, or in the county, when in the maturity of his powers. His pastorate was peaceful during many years, but was exposed to all the evil influences of the period of Indian wars preceding the Revolution. Morals were relaxed, and errors in doctrine crept in by degrees. There is reason to believe that his views underwent some

modification in the course of years, but when charged with departure from the faith, he made a successful defence. However, causes of dissatisfaction increased, and at last, a few years before the Revolution, when the public mind was seething with the spirit of liberty, an occasion occurred which was seized upon to oust him from his place. He asserted the *veto power* of the clergy; his people rejected it, and in the struggle which ensued, while he was sustained by councils, his people finally succeeded in closing the pulpit against him. The case, in brief, was this: Mr. Goss of Bolton was dismissed by his people without the intervention of a council. The ministers in the vicinity, and their churches generally, at first sided with Mr. Goss, and refused fellowship with the church in Bolton. A number of brethren belonging to the Bolton church presented themselves at a communion season in Sterling and asked the privilege of partaking the sacred emblems. To admit them to the Lord's table would be to acknowledge their good standing in the church. A majority of the church in Sterling were willing to receive them. Mr. Mellen opposed their reception, and at length, when voted down, undertook to veto the action of the church. He retired, and the administration of the Lord's Supper was thus prevented. The matter could not rest here, and, after a long contest, the church held a meeting in November, 1774, when they proceeded to dissolve the pastoral relation. The parish concurred in this action. Mr. Mellen had a considerable following, but the majority was against him, and he was finally excluded by violence from the pulpit. His friends united with him in maintaining separate worship, either in his house or in a school-house, about ten years, when, in 1784, he was called to settle in Hanover, where he was installed on the 7th of February. He remained there about twenty-one years, and then, on account of advancing age, asked a dismission in February, 1805. In all the controversy in Sterling, there was no impeachment of his moral and Christian character. The councils and the civil courts sustained him, but his endeavor to set up the authority of the minister against the decision of the brotherhood was a failure. In his family he was a pattern of the virtues, and his three sons, all graduates of Harvard, were an honor to their parentage. Two of them became highly respectable clergymen, and Prentice was chief justice of the Supreme Court of Maine.

The Rev. Rufus Holcomb, a native of Simsbury, Conn., and a graduate of Yale College, was ordained as his successor, June 2, 1779. The church had rest, after the long contest, and an unusual degree of prosperity. This happy condition lasted a whole generation; but in March, 1814, measures were taken which showed a desire on the part of a majority of his people to have the pastoral relation dissolved. Though painful to him, the separation was amicably effected. The Rev. Samuel Capen was ordained March 22, 1815, with a salary of \$600 and a settlement of \$400. The covenant of the church was altered from its former high-toned standard, but still retained such paragraphs as the following:—



"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, with humble dependence on the Holy Spirit, and with sincere repentance of all our sins, we solemnly enter into covenant with the Lord Jehovah." "We receive the Lord Jesus Christ as he is offered to us in the Gospel as the only Mediator between God and man, and through whom alone salvation may be obtained by the sinful children of men."

Mr. Capen was held in high esteem by the church and the people of the town generally, but inadequate support led to his withdrawal. The last sentence of a very appreciative vote of the town reads as follows: "It now only remains for us to wish him all the joys and hopes of the good Man, the polished Scholar, the sincere Friend and real Christian."

The Rev. Peter Osgood was ordained June 30, 1819, and continued in the pastorate several years. His successors have been Revs. Daniel Fosdick, Jr., T. Prentiss Allen, William H. Knapp, E. B. Fairchild, Alpheus Nickerson, Henry C. Bates, and Henry P. Cutting. The congregation during the pastorates of the first three or four ministers was large for a country town. In 1825 the number of communicants was estimated to be between two hundred and fifty and three hundred. Mr. Mellen, in the course of thirty-four years, received two hundred and eighty-three into the church. Mr. Holcomb received three hundred and thirty-one in thirty-five years.

The Universalists began to have stated meetings in 1836. The leading man in the establishment of the society was the late Samuel Sawyer, Esq. At different times quite a number of ministers have supplied the desk for a brief season; but the two who had a more permanent connection, were Rev. Rufus Pope and Rev. George Proctor. Since about 1853 no regular service has been maintained.

There were Baptists in Sterling more than sixty years since, who often held meetings in the western part of the town. About forty-five years ago — 1834 — a few women connected with the Unitarian Church set apart the hour between eight and nine o'clock every Sabbath morning to pray for the influence of the Holy Spirit on the people. In the early spring of 1836, a few Baptists and Orthodox Congregationalists consulted together in regard to securing evangelical preaching in the place. They agreed to support public worship half the time, and each party to the union was to supply a minister a quarter of the time. The Rev. Josiah Clark, of Rutland, came first, and was followed by Rev. Otis Converse (Baptist), of Grafton. Consultations were held in the winter of 1837, when it was agreed, as the Baptists were the majority, that they should take charge of the whole matter for the ensuing year. Dea. Augustine Holcomb, a Congregationalist, who was drawing near the close of life, recommended this, and subscribed sixty dollars for building a Baptist meeting-house. In the month of January a meeting was held at the house of Col. Thomas H. Blood, when the Baptist society was constituted. The church was formed July 24, when eight brethren and four sisters signed the covenant.

The church was recognized by a council held Aug. 9, 1837, when Rev. Cyrus P. Grosvenor was installed as pastor, and Levi Stuart was ordained as deacon. Meetings were held every Sabbath, but alternately in the village and in different school-houses. A small house was altered into a chapel. The pastors since Mr. Grosvenor have been as follows: Revs. George Waters, in whose ministry of three years eighty-three were added to the church, John Allen, O. Cunningham, S. Kenney, W. M. Guilford, J. H. Larned, Gilbert Robins, Wm. Carpenter, S. H. Record, Samuel Cheever, George O. Atkinson, C. H. Hickok, S. B. Macomber, and J. C. Carpenter. One hundred and thirty-seven have been added to this church by baptism. The present number is fifty-four. At present the church is without a pastor, but sustains the worship of God. The meeting-house was erected in 1843.

The First Evangelical Congregational Society was organized and held its first meeting in the town hall, Oct. 19, 1851, under a warrant issued by William D. Peck, Esq. At a meeting held June 8, 1852, "by those church members who during the past year had been accustomed to meet in that place—the town hall—for public worship," it was voted to take the necessary measures towards organizing a "church of the Orthodox-Congregational order." Previous to this, the society had engaged the services of Rev. A. Bigelow and Rev. William B. Greene, as temporary suppliers. A council was called, which met June 22, 1852, and assisted in organizing a church of twenty-two persons, all of whom had been in connection with other churches. The sermon was preached by Rev. Joseph W. Cross, and Rev. William Paine offered prayer.

March 21, 1853, the Rev. Mr. Greene, who had been the "officiating pastor," was requested to continue another year. In this year the society purchased the Universalist meeting-house. The Rev. Charles D. Lothrop was acting pastor in 1854. The next year, May 9, the Rev. William Miller was installed as pastor of the church. He continued in the ministry here until ill-health compelled him to resign in October, 1858. Rev. Joseph Cross of West Boylston, supplied the pulpit several months, and occasionally at other times. Mr. John C. Labaree began preaching in 1861, and on the 4th of February, 1863, was ordained as an evangelist. He remained as acting pastor till the summer of 1865. Rev. Elbridge Gerry, Rev. John C. Paine, and Rev. Evarts B. Kent, officiated in 1867–70. Rev. Lucius D. Mears was ordained Nov. 8, 1871, and remained till Sept. 9, 1873. His immediate successors as acting pastors were Rev. George I. Pierce, and Rev. Loring B. Marsh. The Rev. Benjamin F. Perkins became acting pastor, Feb. 11, 1877. The present membership of the church is sixty-five.

Farming has always been the chief occupation of the inhabitants. As an agricultural town, Sterling is surpassed by few, if any, towns in the county. The number of farms containing five acres and more is about two hundred, village house-lots not included. The value of these farms, by the census of 1875, was \$784,423. The value of the houses and other buildings connected



with farms \$237,175. The acres of land in these farms was seventeen thousand three hundred and sixty-one, all of which are improvable except fifty-three. The value of domestic animals was \$85,679. The total value of land, buildings, fruit-trees, and vines, domestic animals and agricultural implements, was \$927,184. The population was fifteen hundred and sixty-nine; the total valuation was \$1,073,668; and the total products of the year, \$362,800. This amount included products of manufactures, which were valued at \$167,622. In some years more than eighty-three thousand gallons of milk have been sold.

Among the chief industries, besides farming, are chair-making, earthen-ware, leather, lumber, and meal. The value of chairs made annually was, by the census of 1875, \$16,948; value of earthen-ware, \$30,000; value of leather, \$45,000; value of lumber and meal, \$56,060.

The business has changed in the course of years. Formerly the chair business was greater than at present. In 1837 there were twenty-four manufactories of chairs and cabinet ware; and though they were not large, the total value of the products was \$53,288. The number of hands employed was eighty. At that time palm-leaf hats and scythe-snaths were made for sale. As long ago as 1827, and in preceding years, Blood & Rice did a large business as hatters. The chair business was formerly carried on by Gilson Brown and Joel Pratt, and is now pursued by James W. Fitch, at the Centre, and by Edward Burpee at Pratt's Junction.

Tanning has been pursued for two or three generations. The late Dea. Cyrus Holbrook had a large tannery. Charles M. Bailey came later, and then removed to Clinton. At present, Charles H. Newton is in the business, his specialty being the making of calfskins. At West Sterling the business of pottery has been pursued many years, where the clay is abundant and very good. Snow & Coolidge are the proprietors, and manufacture many articles of earthen-ware, as milk-pans, flower-pots, &c. Their ornamental vases and pitchers are elegant in shape and well executed. At Sterling Junction was a saw and grist mill, which was burned in 1875. The present owner is Asa Beel, an ingenious wheelwright.

At the south side of Waushacum pond large ice-houses are stored with ice every season by parties living in Worcester, Providence and Attleborough.

The Central Hotel has long been known as a house of entertainment for travelers. Formerly, stages from the north to Worcester, and from the west to Boston, made this a stopping-place; and many travelers by private teams, as well as teamsters conveying immense loads of freight, found good accommodations and a pleasant temporary home.

The Rev. T. P. Allen, formerly pastor of the Unitarian church, opened a private school, some forty years ago, at a beautiful location a little west of the centre of the town, where many scholars were boarded and instructed. The school flourished and acquired a good reputation, under him and some of his successors.



The education of the rising generation has been well attended to from the beginning. While yet a part of Lancaster, Chocksett received an equitable share of the appropriations for schools. The grammar school was held in the second precinct a proportional part of the time. Some years the time was divided equally, — the master being in Lancaster six months, and the same length of time in the second precinct. Sometimes the proportion was as six to five months. After the incorporation of the town, nearly a hundred years since — 1781 — the support of the schools was never neglected. The territory being large, and the people being settled in all parts soon after the Revolution, if not before, it was necessary to keep open a large number of schools. The terms were short; and sometimes a good teacher passed from one school to another in succession. The sums annually voted for schools bore a close relation to that set apart for the salary of the minister and the support of the poor. The appropriations for these purposes increased gradually. In 1825 the following was the expenditure for the above objects: Support of schools, \$800; minister's salary, \$700; support of the poor, \$500. At the present time the number of schools kept is twelve. The number of scholars between five and fifteen is three hundred and one; the whole number attending school is three hundred and fifty; and the average attendance is two hundred and sixty-three. The amount raised by taxes for the support of the schools, not including superintendence, printing or repairs, was \$3,000. This gives \$11.29 to each scholar between five and fifteen years of age. The time kept by the schools is seven months and nine days.

When the rebels fired upon Fort Sumter in April, 1861, the citizens of Sterling were moved as one man to support the government. The spirit of the Revolution flamed out in speech and action. The general feeling found expression in public meetings as well as in family gatherings. In sermons and prayers in the house of God, the love of country and the hatred of slavery, which threatened to whelm the nation in ruin, had fervent utterance. The first legal town meeting to act upon matters relating to the war was held April 29, when, according to the town records, it was "voted unanimously to appropriate a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars, to aid, equip and uniform such of our fellow-townsmen as shall be called upon, or voluntarily enlist, as soldiers in defense of the government, and to assist their families during their absence." "At the November meeting a vote was passed, appropriating a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, for the purpose of aiding the ladies of the town in procuring articles for use in the hospitals of the army now in the field for the support of the government." This was to be paid by the selectmen to the "Ladies' Patriotic Relief Society," as it might be needed.

At a meeting held July 21, 1862, the selectmen were authorized to pay a bounty of one hundred dollars to each volunteer who should enlist for this year's military service and be credited to the quota of the town. On the 12th of September it was voted to pay a bounty of one hundred dollars to each

citizen of Sterling who should enlist in a company then forming in the town for nine months' service. In 1864, April 4, the town voted to "raise a sum equal to one hundred dollars per man of the quotas of the town, under the orders of the president, dated Oct. 7, 1863, and Feb. 1, 1864. On the 15th of April it was voted to borrow seventeen hundred and fifty dollars, to procure fourteen men to fill the quota of the town. June 16, it was "voted to pay one hundred and twenty-five dollars, under the direction of the selectmen, for each volunteer procured to fill the quota of the town under any future call of the President of the United States, previous to March 1, 1865." "The town," says Gen. Schouler, "continued to raise money, recruit volunteers and pay bounties to the end of the war."

The town clerk and treasurer during the years of the war was William D. Peck, M. D. The selectmen, some in one year and some in another, were the following:—Perley Bartlett, Asa Keyes, Edward Burpee, J. S. Butterick, Josiah Phelps, James A. Pratt, Ephraim Fairbanks, Ira Sawyer, Henry E. Kendall and Moses B. Heywood. Sterling supplied for the war one hundred and seventy-eight men, which was a surplus of thirteen above all demands. The whole amount of money appropriated and expended by the town on account of the war, exclusive of State aid, was \$20,472.69; the amount paid by the town for State aid was, in 1861–5, \$9,869.36; total, \$29,342.05. The contributions of private citizens, men and women, either in money or articles prepared for the sick and wounded soldiers, were liberal.

In 1866 the town erected a handsome granite monument on the Common, in the centre of the town, in memory of the soldiers of Sterling who had died in the military service of the government during the Rebellion. When the monument was dedicated, June 16, 1867, the late Rev. Dr. George Putnam, of Roxbury, delivered the address. He was a native of the town; and it is on record that he was present at one of the town meetings for raising men or money to carry on the war, when he made a "stirring speech."

Sterling has a town hall, a library, not large, but growing and select, a spirited Farmers' Club, and a post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The town is among the most healthy in the State. There have been numerous cases of great longevity in every generation. The period from 1800 to 1822 may be taken as a fair illustration of this fact. During this period there were eighteen deaths of persons over ninety years of age; one was ninety-seven; one reached to a hundred years; and another was one hundred and four or five years old. The majority were females, and were widows at the time of their decease. The oldest was a colored woman.

Among the prominent citizens of Sterling may be mentioned Capt. Ephraim Wilder, who voted in favor of the National Constitution, when only five (besides himself and Hon. John Sprague, of Lancaster,) delegates from the county in the State Convention, voted in the affirmative. Col. Asa Whitcomb's name will always confer honor upon his native town. It is sad to remember

that devotion to the welfare of his country, was the cause of his poverty and self-exile to another town in his old age. In more recent times, Moses G. Thomas, Esq., and Col. Thomas H. Blood, justice of the peace and State senator, have been conspicuous.

Several who were born in the town have been noted or distinguished in other places of residence. Of those who have deceased may be mentioned the three sons of Rev. Mr. Mellen, who were graduated at Harvard College, and filled reputable positions in the ministry and on the bench. The Rev. Dr. Kendall, long the minister of the ancient church in Plymouth, and the late Dr. Kendall, an eminent physician in Clinton, were sons of Sterling. The Hon. Amos Kendall, who was Postmaster-General, in the cabinet of General Jackson, was of the same connection. Isaac Goodwin, Esq., a lawyer of good reputation, and an able writer on historical and other subjects, was born in Sterling, but in mature life, took up his abode in Worcester. The Rev. Mr. Capen, after leaving the town, became pastor of the Hawes Place Society in South Boston. Frank Capen, the "weather prophet," hails from Sterling. Dr. W. F. Holcomb, the eminent surgeon and dentist of New York, and Hon. John A. Goodwin, of Lowell, are natives of the town.

A man of singular history and character made this town his home during many years. His death occurred March 24, 1765. His name was Sebastian Smith, and he was born in Spain. He served in the English fleet when young, under Admiral Sir Cloudesly Shovel. In the words of Mr. Isaac Goodwin, he "had acquired a considerable estate, chiefly by trading on a limited scale. He sustained a good moral character, and having been deprived of the advantages of an early education, he generously determined to appropriate all his means to supply that deficiency in others. Having been educated in the superstitions of his country, where the Holy Scriptures are a "sealed book," he took great delight in hearing the reading of those holy oracles, and for this purpose he presented to the parish a large folio Bible, on condition that it should be read as a part of public worship. This injunction has ever since been duly regarded." But the "Sebastian Bible," so called, having by long usage become mutilated, a new one was procured for the use of the pulpit. Mr. Smith gave all his property in public and private charity. He had no family. To the church he gave two valuable silver tankards, and also left one hundred pounds as a bequest, which were to be expended in educating the poor children belonging to the parish, or town. The money bequest was entirely lost in the Revolution, when many other funds were wasted or diverted from their designated uses.



## STURBRIDGE.

BY A. C. MORSE, ESQ.

## CHAPTER I.

INDIAN OCCUPATION — ELIOT'S MISSION — LAND GRANTS — FIRST PROPRIETORSHIPS — DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT — INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN — APPROACH OF THE REVOLUTION — A SHARER IN THE BOSTON TEA PARTY — SOLDIERS' LIST — CIVIL CONDITION IN 1792 — SEPARATION OF SOUTHBRIDGE — LOCAL RECOLLECTIONS — REPRESENTATIVES.

THE territory now known as Sturbridge, according to its Indian name was "Tautousque." In 1682 the whole Nipmuck country, from the north of Massachusetts to Nashaway, at the junction of the Quinebaug and French rivers — a tract fifty miles long and twenty wide — was made over to the Massachusetts government by the Indians, for the sum of fifty pounds and a reservation of land. This is probably the way and time these lands were acquired. This vicinity was inhabited by a tribe of Nipmucks (Nipnets), Quabaug, in the north-west and Brookfield, Wabagaquets in the south-east in Woodstock. We have no history so far as the aborigines of this vicinity are concerned. They hunted and fished our ponds and rivers, traversed the hills and valleys, and passed away without a memorial, excepting the name of our river — Quinebaug. The Indian apostle, Rev. John Eliot, the most celebrated of all Indian missionaries, having learnt their language, he began traveling and preaching to them through this vicinity in 1646, and continued diligent and persevering in his efforts for their instruction until his death in 1690. He made a translation of the whole Bible into the Indian language, which was printed in Cambridge in 1663. He was the Indians' friend; which fact was so fully appreciated by two of the Quabaug chiefs — Wattalloowekin and Nakin — that they gave him a tract of one thousand acres, in 1655, in the vicinity of Alum Pond (called by the Indians, "Pookookapog Pond"). This grant was confirmed by the legislature, in 1714, to John Eliot, a grandson of the apostle. In the year 1644 a tract of land was granted to John Winthrop, Jr., which was not surveyed, giving definite bounds until the year 1715, containing four square miles, covering all that part of the Quinebaug River beginning at the east,

nearly opposite Sturbridge Centre, and extending west into Brimfield. In 1714, Gov. Gordon Saltonstall selected his tract of two thousand acres, lying north of the Winthrop tract, adjoining on the west the Eliot tract, of which eight hundred acres were in this town and two hundred in Brookfield.

In the year 1725, the first petition is believed to have been sent in to the General Court at Boston for a grant of land lying between Oxford, Brimfield, Brookfield, and the province line, by the inhabitants of Medfield and other towns. A second petition was also sent in the year 1727, at which time notice was taken by the Honorable Court to that degree, that a committee of three was chosen to visit and examine the lands prayed for, and make a report of same. This, when done, was returned to the court; to wit, that said lands were worth one thousand pounds. No further action being taken, a third petition was sent, in 1729, by William Ward of Southborough, Joshua Morse, and forty others, of Medfield, considering it, in their opinion, to be of the value of one thousand pounds, for the improvement of themselves, their posterity, and also for the enlarging of the province.

The General Court did not consider the land asked for capable of making a township, there being so much poor land in the tract. However, in August of that year, they voted that the prayer of the petitioners be granted, on conditions that they shall, within seven years' time, settle and have actually on the spot fifty families, each of which to build a house eighteen foot square at least, to break up and improve seven acres of land, settle an Orthodox minister, &c. William Ward, Esq., was empowered and directed to regulate and assemble the grantees for the purpose of choosing officers to conduct the affairs of the plantation. The first meeting was called to meet at the house of Joshua Morse in Medfield on the 6th day of Nov., 1729. They accordingly met, to the number of forty-two, as follows:—

Melatah Bourn, Thomas Gleason, Ezra Clark, William Ward, Moses Gleason, Samuel Ellice, Ezra Boum, Jonas Gleason, David Ellice, Shuball Goram, Joshua Morse, Francis Moquett, Thomas Learned, Joseph Plimpton, Henry Adams, Nathan Fisk, Nathaniel Smith, Ichabod Harding, Henry Fisk, Solomon Clark, John Plimpton, Ebenezer Learned, Timothy Hamant, Josiah Cheney, Nahum Ward, William Plimpton, Capt. John Dwight, Gershom Keyes, Ephraim Partridge, Capt. John Boyden, Zenobeebell Eager, Abraham Harding, Nathan Morse, John Shearman, Moses Harding, James Dennison, Joseph Baker, Josiah Ellice, Joseph Marsh, Jonas Houghton, Peter Balch, Capt. Joseph Clark."

The meeting was opened by William Ward, who acted as moderator, when the following officers were chosen: Abraham Harding, clerk; John Plimpton, collector; Wm. Ward, Joshua Morse, Capt. Ebenezer Learned, Capt. John Dwight, and Abraham Harding were chosen to bring forward the settlement of the township according to directions of the General Court. This tract was then called Dummer, after Lieut. Gov. Wm. Dummer. The second meeting, the lots were prepared for draught, it was voted that Joseph Morse, son of

Joshua Morse, shall be the person to draw them all. The names of the following were admitted into partnership with the rest soon after the grant was obtained: Nehemiah Allen, Moses Allen, Seth Wight, David Morse, Moses Marcy, David Shumway, and John Harding. In 1731 the settlement began to be called "New Medfield." The meetings of the proprietors were generally held in Medfield, occasionally at Framingham.

It must not be understood, however, that they all actually removed to this place. Some enlisted in the undertaking for the purpose of obtaining a settlement for their children; others joined merely to aid those who were more directly interested, and shortly after sold their right, in whole or in part, to such as were willing to settle here on the terms prescribed by the General Court. These hardy pioneers, if tradition tells the truth, came chiefly on foot and alone into an almost unbroken forest, in the spring, to labor upon their allotments until the commencement of winter, and then return to their homes, until about the time they had erected their dwellings and outhouses, felled the forests, and brought into cultivation the quantity of land prescribed in the conditions annexed to the act, that they might be entitled to an act of incorporation for a town, with authority to choose the necessary officers for the purpose of a proper organization thereof.

Notwithstanding the idea prevailed at the General Court that this tract of land was very poor, there is a large quantity that is very good, though it is to a large extent mountainous and rocky. The scenery at many points is very picturesque and romantic. The principal elevations are Walker Mountain, in the north, overlooking Walker Pond, and Cedar Pond, which latter contains an area of one hundred and eighty-two acres; Leadmine Mountain in the south-west, overlooking Leadmine Pond, of about one hundred and sixty-three acres; Mount Dan in the north-west corner, having Alum Pond, a beautiful sheet of water of two hundred and eighty-two acres, lying near its base, and Fisk Hill in the east. Henry Fisk one of the original proprietors and his brother Daniel, pitched their tent near the top of the hill, which has ever since borne their name. It has one of the most elevated and beautiful swells of land in town, possessing fertility, and commanding an extensive and delightful view. In every direction, the eye sweeps over an expanse of varied and lofty scenery, exhibiting spires, churches and villages, intermixed with the beauties of nature setting forth a rare assemblage of natural and artificial attractions. Shumway Hill, is another eminence which commands a delightful view of the surrounding country, developing more fully the mountains of Monadnock, Wachusett and Mount Tom. At the sixth meeting, Nov. 21, 1732, an article in the notice to see "whether the proprietors will grant Moses Marcy a tract of land in consideration of his building a mill or mills at a place called the falls," no action was taken at this meeting. At the eighth meeting, Nov. 29, 1733, it was voted that "Moses Marcy shall have a tract of land granted and given to him, to be of the value of one of the fifty-



acre lots as are laid out in the second division, if he will build a grist-mill on Quinabaug river at the dam where he hath built a saw-mill, before the last of September, 1736." The two mills were erected on the west side of the river, between the west end of the present dam and the central mill in Southbridge; the east side of the river at that time belonged to Oxford. At the meeting, June 4, 1740, the town voted to grant Mr. Marcy forty acres in a lot on the south side of this town upon the Cedar Swamp Brook, and thirty-seven acres in a lot north of the meeting-house, called the Eel Weirs, for encouragement for building a grist-mill. Some years after this mill was built, Capt. Jacob Allen, descendant of Moses Allen the first settler, built a grist-mill, situated on the western bank, near the point where the large factory dam crosses the river above the Fiskdale mills. It was the first and only mill in the present town for many years. The proprietors having fulfilled the conditions in their grant; they were incorporated into a town in June, 1738, by the name of Sturbridge. The following is a copy of the act of the Legislature:—

*An act for erecting a new town in the County of Worcester, at a plantation called New Medfield, by the name of Sturbridge:*

"Whereas, The proprietors of a certain tract of land within the County of Worcester, called New Medfield, have fulfilled the conditions of their grant, and therefore pray that they may be incorporated into a township, for want whereof they labor under great difficulties, —

*"Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governour, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, —*

"SECT. 1. That the tract of land lying between the towns of Brookfield, Brimfield, Woodstock, Dudley, and Oxford, the Province line, and the ten thousand acres, so called, be and hereby is erected into a township by the name of Sturbridge.

"SECT. 2. And that the inhabitants thereof be and hereby are vested with all such powers, privileges, and immunities as the inhabitants of the other towns within this province are, or by law ought to be, vested with. [June 24, 1738."

This name is derived from Stourbridge, a town in Worcester County, in England. As some of the ancestors of the first settlers were natives of that place, it was quite natural that they should adopt the name of Sturbridge for this grant of a town in the County of Worcester, in New England. By an order of the General Court accompanying the act of incorporation, Moses Marcy, who is therein styled "one of the principal inhabitants," was "authorized and empowered to assemble the freeholders and other qualified voters" for the purpose of choosing town officers, and establish a system of town regulations, which was to be the basis of future proceedings. That meeting was held Sept. 18, 1738, at which Moses Marcy was chosen moderator; Daniel Fiske, town clerk; Daniel Fiske, Moses Marcy, Henry Fiske, selectmen; Joseph Smith, constable, and other necessary officers. On the 13th of February, 1739, the selectmen issued their first warrant for a town meeting, to be holden in March. In

order to show the full extent of their municipal affairs at that early day, will give a copy of same : —

“ WORCESTER, SS. *To Joseph Smith, Constable of Sturbridge :*

“ In his majesty’s name you are required forthwith to warn all the freeholders and other inhabitants of the said town, to convene at the meeting house in Sturbridge aforesaid, on Monday, the 5th day of March next, at nine of the clock, in the forenoon, then and there to elect and depute selectmen, constables and other town officers (as the law directs) to serve this town the ensuing year ; to furnish Mr. Rice’s desk with a cushion (?) and to agree upon the granting such sum of money as shall be judged needful for the benefit of, and defraying all necessary charges arising within, the said town ; and to agree and conclude upon any other matter or thing which shall be thought needful to promote the benefit and welfare thereof.”

No action was taken on furnishing cushions for Mr. Rice or granting money.

These settlers were, in an important sense, a new colony. They considered the work of laying the right foundation, for its growth and prosperity devolved wholly upon them. Like the Pilgrim fathers, they came imbued with elevated moral, religious and political principles which must be carried out in practice. A system of municipal government must be established, embracing the most essential provisions for religious worship, and the instruction of the rising generation. Possessing a great share of sound, practical common sense and elevated sentiments, their records fully show that they were found equal to the task. Party considerations had not then an existence ; the birth of such an influence bears date at a much later period. The paramount inquiry then was, What will promote the general good ? This principle marked their course for a long period ; laudable emulation then prevailed ; without it, the stern work in which they were engaged would have lingered on their hands, and the truth cannot be suppressed that that high moral standard which characterized our ancestors has not been sustained. Many were the oppressive and unjust laws showered upon them from the mother country while struggling up to manhood. The stamp act (so called) was a measure peculiarly odious and oppressive in its requisitions. A series of oppressive measures during five or six years, waxing worse and worse and more and more irritating, were followed up, one after the other, till the crisis of determined resistance arrived. Unjustifiable taxation was the principal cause of complaint. The union of representation and taxation, universally allowed to be inseparable in just legislation, was totally disregarded in the policy of the mother country towards these Colonies.

Oct. 17, 1765. Considering the stamp act to be unsupportable, they instructed their representative to use the uttermost of his endeavors consistent with loyalty, that said act might be repealed, the next year after the riot at Boston, whereby considerable loss was sustained by the lieutenant-governor and others, which was occasioned by the odious stamp act.

At a meeting Sept. 12, 1766, to see if the town will instruct their representative in regard to making up the loss, the instruction was “to do it with as



much credit and as little charge to the Province as may be," the meaning of which was fully explained in their meeting in November of the same year, when they voted not to make compensation for those losses.

At this time, two or three companies of young men, in the disguise of Indians, are entitled to the honor of casting into Boston Harbor a cargo of tea. Among those was Mr. Samuel Hobbs of this place. These Mohawks, in their boats, surrounded the freighted vessel, immediately boarded, and relieved her of her burden. This transaction, full of meaning, could not be misunderstood. The intelligence spread with electric velocity over the country. It soon reached the ears of his majesty, and was received with no very pleasant emotions. The Boston port bill was passed under this intelligence, prohibiting the lading or unlading of all goods in the port of Boston. 1774 was the memorable era of the last oppressive measure, — the paper blockade, — which was immediately followed by an armed force.

At a meeting in 1774, the town, with united voice, voted, "after solemn prayer to God for direction," not to purchase any goods which should be imported from England after a certain specified time.

Aug. 25, 1774, a committee of five were chosen (Dea. Moses Weld, Timothy Newell, William McKinstry, John Salmon, and Mr. Benjamin Freeman) to consult and advise what is necessary and prudent to be done by the county; also to meet the committees of other towns, and report, which was done and approved by the town; and on the 28th of September, 1774, the town voted to provide four half barrels of powder, five hundred weight of lead, and five hundred flints, and chose a committee to make provisions for the men in case they should be called away upon any sudden emergency in defence of our just rights, privileges, &c. James Johnson, Joseph Cheney, Henry Fisk, Hinsdale Clark, Ezekiel Upham, Stephen Gerould, and John Marsh constituted that committee.

At the November 17th meeting, the town made additions to their stock of powder and lead; also, Rev. Joshua Paine gave one-half barrel of powder, Henry Fisk three hundred weight of lead; and that all the men in town from sixteen years old and upward shall meet at the meeting-house on the first Monday of December next, at ten of the clock in the morning, with arms and ammunition in order for viewing, at which time they met on the training field, formed, marched into the meeting-house in silence and good order. After solemn prayer to God and singing, Rev. Joshua Paine preached a sermon from the Psalms; after which it was proposed to call over the list of the alarm men first, who numbered a hundred and three, of which there was some more than seventy years old. Two hundred and thirty-nine men from this town joined the armies which fought the battles of liberty during the Revolutionary struggle. After the Declaration of Independence had been published to the world, the people of this town solemnly "engaged to support it with their lives and fortunes," and had actually transcribed it entire on their town records.



In the year 1783, the whole number of ratable polls in town was 454. Worcester at that time was only 540; Springfield, 549; Brookfield, 675.

The following list embraces such persons, so far as has been ascertained, of whom many served also in the French war in 1754:—

Abraham Allen, Caleb Allen, Eliphalet Allen, Thomas Boyden, John Boyden, Amos Boyden, Justus Boyden, Nathan Brown, Joel Barrett, Asa Bullard, Maj. Asa Coburn, Capt. Henry Clark, Rufus Clark, David Corey, Joseph Cheney, John Corey, Elijah Carpenter, Phineas Coburn, Col. Ebenezer Crafts, Lemuel Clark, Asahel Clark, Jephtha Clark, Jacob Cleaveland, Capt. John Congden, Zach Coburn, Edward Coburn, Stephen Draper, Silas Dunton, Benj. Dix, John Dunton, James Dyer, Thos. Dyer, Robt. Edwards, Cyrus Fay, Simeon Fisk, Nathan Fisk, Joshua Fisk, Lieut. Benj. Felton, Walter Freeman, Abel Gunn, John Gess, Eleazer Howard, Benj. Humphrey, Abijah Hyde, Joshua Hyde, Benj. Hyde, John Hyde, Othniel Hyde, Samuel Hyde, Benj. Hobbs, John Holbrook, Joshua Harding, Hinsdale Hamant, James Johnson, Comfort Johnson, Joshua Gerold, Thos. Janes, Marvel Jackson, Wm. Leech, Jesse Sabin, Capt. Abel Mason, Simeon Mason, Ithamar Merrifield, Calvin Marsh, Joshua Mason, Samuel Morse, Silas Marsh, Joseph Mills, Capt. Adam Martin, Aaron Martin, Moses Martin, Asa Morse, Daniel Morse, Jeremy Morse, Enos Morse, Duty Marsh, Aaron Marsh, Elijah Marcy, Timothy Newell, Capt. Samuel Newell, Lieut. Stephen Newell, Dea. John Phillips, Dr. Eben'r Phillips, Elijah Plimpton, Daniel Plimpton, Timothy Parker, Oliver Plimpton, Moses Plimpton, John Plimpton, Elias Plimpton, Primus (Indian), Ichabod Robbins, Eli Robbins, Col. Nathan Rice, Oliver Robbins, Timothy Smith, Nathan Smith, Moses Smith, John Salmon, Joseph Shaw, Nahum Smith, Samuel Shumway, Abijah Shumway, Mark Stacy, Amos Scott, Wm. Simpson, Elijah Shumway, Joseph Towne, P. Thayer (Indian), Isaac Upham, Jonathan Upham, Lieut. Nathaniel Walker, Josiah Walker, Benj. Walker, Obed Walker, Phineas Walker, Dennison Wheelock, Ralph Wheelock, George Watkins, Mr. Welsh, Chas. West, Thomas Wakefield Capt. Isaac Warner, Thomas Young, Lieut. John Taylor.

The following, showing the number of acres from the Tax-Book in this town in 1792:—Woodland, 15,380 acres; pasturing, 3,265 acres; land unimprovable, 5,609 acres; meadow, 1,690 acres; covered with water, 1,242 acres; roads, 458 acres. Total, 27,644 acres.

There were also in town twelve saw-mills, three grist-mills, and five pot and pearl ash works. On the 7th of April, 1794, quite an acquisition was made to the town from the Country Gore, (so called), including the names and lands of Ezekiel Brown, Joseph Ammidown, Benj. Stoddard, Ephraim Bacon, and Jeremiah Morse.

The present enclosing-wall of the old cemetery was erected on the 16th, 17th, and 18th days of June of this year by a free contribution of the labor of individuals from all parts of the town, under the charge of Capt. Hooker, Capt. Corey, and Capt. Marcy. A building, 10 by 14 ft., was erected this year for the funeral carriage. In 1796 a petition was sent to the General Court by Joshua Harding, Jr., and others in the south-east part of the town, to be erected into a separate town, to embrace the south-west part of Charlton and the west part of

Dudley. To strengthen their claim for a town, in 1800 they erected a meeting-house in that part, and, by their persistent efforts the next year, the General Court incorporated a certain number of individuals from the three towns into a poll-parish, which they enjoyed for a few years, still aspiring to political rights under the authority of a town organization, and they, with their co-operators from the other towns, did not cease their efforts until they obtained from the Legislature an act of incorporation for a town, after twenty years' labor, in February, 1816. Consequently, at this time a little less than one-third of the polls, and little more than one-fourth of the property, fell within the limits of Southbridge. Comparing the present aspect of the centre village of Sturbridge with its appearance in 1811, a very striking change is apparent. Commencing at the beautiful residence of Mr. Wm. Whittemore, which was for about a century occupied as the residence of the first three Congregational ministers of Sturbridge; viz., Mr. Rice, the first settler, Mr. Paine, and Mr. Lane, and passing westerly, we come next to the venerable mansion of Gen. Timothy Newell, now occupied by Mr. Wm. Willard, the artist; opposite, some thirty rods north, there still remains the residence built by Mr. Samuel Hobbs, now occupied by his grandson, Samuel Hobbs; next was a two-story dwelling-house, where Mr. Babbitt lived, on the site now occupied by Mr. A. C. Morse; next was a small, one-story dwelling on the site where Mr. J. N. Chamberlain's house now stands; next was the public house erected by Col. Crafts, one of the oldest buildings in town. Nearly opposite is the two-story dwelling-house built by Capt. Coburn, now owned by Mrs. Hutchins; thence on the hill was the dwelling-house of Dea. Daniel Plimpton, now occupied by H. Haynes & Son as a carriage-shop. Maj. Thomas Upham lived in a one-story house south of the Gen. Newell place. On the north side of the Common was a one-story, old building on the spot where now is the residence of Mr. Elias M. Gifford. There was no dwelling on the Turnpike north nearer than the Capt. Bullock place, now owned by Levi B. Chase. This enumeration includes all the principal buildings (excepting the church) in the centre of the town in 1811. New cemetery grounds were purchased in 1825, of about three acres, of George Watkins. In 1867 more land was added, from N. W. Plimpton, and in 1869, from J. C. Bacon, making in all about twelve acres. In 1838, the town house was built, one story high; in 1859 it was enlarged and an upper story put on by the Worcester South Agricultural Society, and, in 1868, was purchased by the town.

The following persons have been chosen to represent the town at the General Court:—

Daniel Fiske, Moses Marcy, Timothy Parker, Timothy Newell, Ebenezer Crafts, John Boyden, Joshua Harding, Jr., Josiah Walker, Frederick Plimpton, Thomas Babbitt, Thomas Upham, Oliver Plimpton, David Wight, Rev. Lenox L. Leonard, Gershom Plimpton, Jabez Upham, Joseph Allen, John Phillips, Samuel Freeman, Sylvester Watkins, Rev. Otis Larr, James Johnson, Edward Phillips, Cyrus Merrick, Amasa Child,



Pennel Belknap, Roswell Warner, David Wight, 2d, Thomas Merrick, Peter Belknap, David K. Porter, Jonathan P. Curtis, Lemuel Hooker, Abijah Prouty, Cromwell Bul-  
lard, Caleb Weld, Nathaniel Walker, Benj. D. Hyde, Hezekiah Allen, Prince Bracket,  
David Wight, Jr., George V. Corey, Jabez Harding, Francis W. Emmons, Dwight P.  
Johnson, Emerson Johnson, Seneca Richardson, Simeon F. Marsh, Hiel Nichols, Henry  
Haynes, Jr., James M. Belknap, Elisha Southwick, Emory L. Bates, Amasa C. Morse,  
Rev. M. L. Richardson, Noah D. Ladd, Charles Fuller, Alvin B. Chamberlain.

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## CHAPTER II.

EARLY PROVISION FOR SCHOOLS—LATER PROGRESS — PUBLIC LIBRARY — POPU-  
LATION — WAR OF REBELLION — ROLL OF HONOR — COLLEGIATE CATALOGUE  
— TOWN OFFICERS — CHURCH HISTORY — CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY — BAPTIST  
— EPISCOPAL.

THE subject of education was brought into town meeting for the first time, Oct. 6, 1740. In the warrant for that meeting was an article, "To see if the town will come into any measures to provide a school." It passed in the negative; but in March, 1742, the town granted £20 for schooling, and authorized their selectmen to dispose of the same for that purpose, which they divided, for the support of two schools at the south-east and north-west part of town, making four schools at the average expense of five pounds per school. Margaret Manning, Mary Hoar, the wife of John Stacy, and wife of Jeremiah Streeter, were the first four teachers who had the honor of laying the foundation of learning to the rising generation of this town. The next year £30 were raised; next £40, half to be expended in summer and the rest in winter, "to instruct children to write." In 1749, a committee of four persons were chosen to take care and get proper school dames for to keep school." In 1753 the town built three school-houses, which were the first. In 1754 Ichabod Sparrow Paine was engaged to teach, and was the first schoolmaster that was employed in this town. In 1761, £80 were granted for schooling, and was voted, "the town to have it under their eye how the money is expended." That year the town was divided into school districts. By the law of this Province, made in 1692, it required every town having one hundred families, to support a grammar school, the penalty for not doing so was £20. In the year 1766 the town voted "to instruct the selectmen to petition the Court of Sessions for this county, to have some explanation, or moderation or limitation of that act imposing a fine of £20 for not keeping a grammar school, and that the fine, or part thereof, laid upon this town, be granted to the town for schooling. The law also required a grammar schoolmaster to be approved by the minister of the town, and also of the two next adjoining towns, by certificate



under their hands. They were also exempted from taxation. The brick school-house at Sturbridge Centre, was built in 1851; destroyed by fire in 1855, and rebuilt the same year. The brick school-house between Fiskdale and Snellville villages, forty-two feet wide and sixty feet long, two stories high, was built in 1874, at a cost of \$9,000. Nathaniel Upham, John W. Draper, and William Wight, were chosen building committee for same. The usual annual appropriation for schools is \$3,500. Number of scholars in 1878, was three hundred and thirty-eight. The school committee for this year is as follows:—Rev. D. E. Jennings, Rev. Clarence Fowler, Noah D. Ladd, Henry E. Hitchcock, A. B. Chamberlain.

In 1873 the Quinebaug Library Association gave to the town about four hundred volumes, on condition that the town appropriate annually the sum of \$100 for its increase and support, which was accepted by the town, which chose the following committee to make the necessary arrangements for a town library: Rev. M. L. Richardson, Henry E. Hitchcock, and Miss Kate Shumway. The library is now permanently situated in the upper room of the school-house at Centre. It now contains 1,550 volumes. Miss Emeline Hutchins is librarian.

By the Colonial census of 1776, the population of the town was 1,374; with two exceptions each succeeding census has shown slight gains. Between 1810 and 1820 there was a falling off from 1,927 to 1,633. This loss was largely due to the incorporation of Southbridge. Between 1860 and 1865 there was again a reduction from 2,282 to 1,993. In 1875—the last census—the population was 2,213. The loss from 1860 to '65, is mainly due to the War of the Rebellion, in which this town contributed her full share, to the number of one hundred and fifty-six; of this number twenty-nine died on the field of honor. Their names are inscribed upon the monument, erected by the town in 1870.

The following is a list of the soldiers who served in the War of the Rebellion 1861-'65:—

Wm. L. Allen, \* Waldo Allen, Stephen F. Andrews, Wm. Amsden, Salem Adams, Lewis Benson, \* James Brigham, George Brackett, John Burns, Albert Bock, Mathew Burns, Henry Bowen, Andrew Barrett, Leighton Brown, Abraham Benjamin, George Blood, Albert Bump, Emory F. Bailey, \* Arthur Bullard, \* Chas. H. Brown, \* Wm. Blood, \* John Blodgett, \* John Cooper, Michael Cleary, Asa F. Crosby, John Crosby, Chas. Cutler, Merrick Clark, Jerome Childs, \* Alphonso F. Child, Alfred Carpenter, Levi B. Chase, John Cobby, John Slehick, Frank Cooper, \* Wm. Carter, \* Wm. Clark, A. B. Chamberlain, Curtis Dodge, Stephen Dunn, Maurice Doran, Edwin Draper, Henry S. Edgerton, Albert Edgerton, \* Wm. S. Fuller, Chas. T. Tower, \* Patrick Gavin, Elias Gifford, James Groves, John Gore, F. H. Gleason, John P. Haynes, James Hurst, John Hilton, Wm. Hilton, Henry E. Hitchcock, Everett Hooker, Lathrop Hooker, Wm. Hooker, Mark Heathcote, Wm. Heathcote, Fred Holmes, Wm. Johnson, \* James A. Johnson, Loren Johnson, Edward Jones, John Kebles, Wm. King, James King, Geo.

\* Died in service.

Kendrick, Nathan Keach, Walter Learned, Wm. Lombard, Franklin Lombard, Geo. P. Ladd, Lucian Lamb, Andrew Lee, Henry Lincoln, Wm. Levalley, Wm. Lamb, John F. Moore, Wm. D. Marsh, Geo. Marsh, Albert Moon, Darius Moon, James Moon, Wm. Macomber, John Marra, Edmund Mason, Henry Miller, Chas. Morse, Amasa C. Morse, John Martin, \* Geo. McMaster, John Newton, James Nolan, \* Simeon F. Newton, \* Thomas O'Hara, Alexander Oakes, Henry Pepin, Chas. Plummer, Harlan Pepper, Julius A. Parkhurst, Chas. A. Phillips, Elbridge Perry, Amasa Phetteplace, \* Isaac Plimpton, Levi Richards, Ferdinand Rodgers, Albert Remington, \* Hiram Ransom, \* Alfred Russell, Chas. A. Stone, \* Nathan Stone, \* Wm. J. Stone, Jas Stone, Geo. Stone, John Stone, \* Homer Smith, Addison Smith, Chas. W. Smith, Ebenezer Smith, Augustine Snell, Theodore Snell, Chester Scarborough, Henry Scarborough, Melvin Shepard, James Shepard, Horace Shepard, Edwin Spencer, Joseph Spencer, Albert Sykes, Geo. Sykes, Farnum Southwick, Samuel Shumway, Merrick Streeter, \* Richard Shannock, Ransom Towne, Daniel Wight, Levins Wight, Reuben Walker, Harrison Wells, Henry Wells, Delvis Withey, Geo. Wright, \* Alpheus Wright, Jefferson Wellington, Chas. W. Walls, \* David Wilson, \* Chas. Whittemore, \* Arthur Walker, Alvin Woodard, Simeon Younge, Robert Younge.

The following is a list of graduates whose nativity is reckoned to the honor of this town :—

Caleb Rice, Jr., Harvard University, 1764 ; Nathan Rice, Harvard University, 1773 ; Joshua Paine, Jr., Harvard University, 1784 ; Thomas Babbitt, Harvard University, 1784 ; Ephraim Allen, Harvard University, 1789 ; Erasmus Babbitt, Harvard University, 1790 ; Samuel C. Crafts, Harvard University, 1790 ; Grosvenor Tarbell, Yale College, 1793 ; Alpheus Cheney, Dartmouth College, 1795 ; John Paine, Harvard University, 1799 ; Timothy Newell, Jr., Harvard University, 1802 ; Samuel Bacon, Harvard University, 1808 ; Benjamin Rice, Brown University, 1808 ; Josiah J. Fiske, Brown University, 1808 ; William L. Marcy, Brown University, 1808 ; Jacob Cory, Brown University, 1808 ; Daniel F. Harding, Brown University, 1809 ; David W. Fiske, Brown University, 1825 ; Calvin P. Fiske, Brown University, 1826 ; Henry F. Leonard, Brown University, 1826 ; David T. Lane, Amherst College, 1829 ; William H. Taylor, Brown University, 1837 ; Abijah S. Lyon, Brown University, 1837 ; Benjamin F. Brooks, Amherst College, 1837 ; Chester W. Carpenter, Amherst College ; John B. Allen, Union College ; Darius Gore, Amherst College ; Alfred Belknap, Amherst College ; Merrick Lyon, Brown's University ; Henry D. Hyde, Amherst College, 1861 ; Charles Cutting, Amherst College ; Frank E. Brooks, member of Brown University, 1879.

The board of town officers for the present year is as follows : Treasurer, Emory L. Bates ; Clerk, A. C. Morse ; Selectmen, Simeon F. Marsh, Charles H. Allen, William Whittemore ; Overseers of Poor, Nathaniel Upham, Henry Haynes, Samuel Edgerton ; Assessors, George N. Bacon, Charles Anderson, Henry E. Hitchcock ; Constables, D. R. Bland, P. C. Hooker, E. H. Chamberlain ; Auditor, Charles V. Corey ; Field Driver, Eugene W. Rice.

The conditions on which lands were granted to the original proprietors,

\* Died in service.

according to an act of Legislature in 1692, required that they must, within seven years from the grant, settle an orthodox minister, and that every qualified voter shall pay his tax for the support of same. Before any regular society was established, James Dennison, Joseph Smith, Henry and Daniel Fisk, with several others in different parts of the town, as they became acquainted, met every Lord's Day for worship at their different places of abode. At the third meeting of the proprietors, Nov. 30, 1731, it was voted that they should build a meeting-house as soon as they conveniently can, fifty feet in length, forty feet in width and twenty-two feet between sills and plates; that the said house shall be finished according to articles drawn to finish the meeting-house at Hassanamisco (now Grafton); that it be built, covered and enclosed in the space of one year from that time, and finished in the space of two years. John Dwight, Jonas Houghton and Joseph Plimpton were chosen as a building committee. The spot of land selected for its site was "near the meeting of the roads, on the west side of Sugar Brook," *i.e.*, a few rods south of the present Congregational church. The heirs of Gen. Saltonstall at that time owning the land, negotiations were immediately commenced and soon brought to a successful termination, by a deed of six acres, for and in consideration of the setting up of a meeting-house upon it, with burying-ground, training-field, &c. The 19th of September, 1733, the house was dedicated, more than four years before the town was incorporated. Rev. Mr. Baxter of Medfield preached the dedicatory sermon, from Isaiah lxiii. 5. Rev. Mr. Cowell was their first preacher. Rev. Caleb Rice was ordained on the 29th of September, 1736, at which time a church was organized consisting of fourteen members. Rev. Peter Whitney, author of a history of the County of Worcester in 1793, gives the following sketch of Mr. Rice's character: "He was a pastor after God's heart! sound in faith! a good preacher! endowed with excellent gifts and very exemplary in life, as well as social and benevolent in his deportment." Mr. Rice closed both his life and ministry Sabbath-day, Sept. 2, 1759. The pulpit was supplied the following two years by Messrs. Storrs, Whitney and Mills. The insufficiency of accommodation in the old church induced the town to build a new house, which was erected in 1784, completed and dedicated in 1787. The following ministers have supplied the pulpit:—

Rev. Joshua Paine, commenced June, 1761, died Dec. 28, 1799; Rev. Otis Lane, commenced December, 1800, dismissed February, 1819; Rev. Alvan Bond, commenced November, 1819, dismissed October, 1831; Rev. Joseph S. Clark, commenced December, 1831, dismissed December, 1838; Rev. David R. Austin, commenced May, 1839, dismissed October, 1851; Rev. Hubbard Beebe, commenced June, 1852, dismissed October, 1854; Rev. Sumner G. Clapp, commenced March, 1856, dismissed September, 1862; Rev. Marshall B. Angier, commenced July, 1863, dismissed June, 1867; Rev. Martin L. Richardson, commenced October, 1867.

Mr. Richardson, the present pastor, is a native of Winchester, Mass., and a graduate of Amherst College. In 1868 the society erected a parsonage,



situated north of the church, at an expense of \$3,000. An account of Rev. Mr. Baxter of Medfield, who consecrated the first church in this town, shows that our ancestors were not wholly free from witchcraft, "for on one occasion he went to reprove Goody Lincoln for the sin of practising witchcraft, and felt a strange pain in his leg on his return, which he attributed to her ill influence."

In the year 1747, near the close of the ministry of Rev. Caleb Rice, of the Orthodox Church, at that time styled the Standing Order, according to legislative favoritism in behalf of one religious denomination to the detriment of all other religious bodies, fifteen members withdrew themselves from the old society, and established what has since been known as the Baptist church of Sturbridge. At that time they were stigmatized by the "Standing Order" as "New Lights," Separates or Separatists. They had for their preacher, Mr. John Blunt, who was afterwards killed in the French war, at the battle of Lake George. A house of worship was erected, which stood within the present limits of Southbridge, near Globe Village. Rev. William Ewing was their first minister. After a short ministry in this town, he removed, and the church was left without a regular pastor for several years. The members of this church, considering that it was enough for them to maintain their own minister, therefore refused to be taxed for the support of any other; but still the civil law of the day refused to release them: consequently affairs were brought to a most unhappy issue. In the year 1749, Rev. Ebenezer Moulton, of the Baptist Church in Brimfield, baptized thirteen of their number, including Dea. Daniel Fiske, Dea. John Newell, Henry Fiske, and David Morse, their ruling elders. Soon after, Mr. Blunt and sixty others were baptized, which was the cause of much bitterness among those and the members of the church of the Standing Order. The following is quoted from a note in Benedict's "History of the Baptists": "Mr. Moulton, for preaching here, was seized by the constable, dragged out of the town, and thrust into prison as a stroller and vagabond; also, Dea. Fiske, John Corey, Jeremiah Barstow, Josiah Perry, and John Draper were imprisoned at Worcester gaol."

In 1750 and 1751, the assessors took from Abraham Bloyce a spinning-wheel; from Dea. Fiske, five pewter plates and a cow; John Pike, a cow; Jonathan Perry, a saddle and steer; Mr. Blunt, a trammel, andirons, shovel, tongs, and a heifer; John Streeter, a kettle and pot-hooks; from Benj. Robbins, Henry Fiske, John Perry, David Morse, Phineas Collier, John Newell, and John Draper, sundry goods were taken.

In 1752, town meetings were called to see if some agreement might not be made satisfactory to all for peace' sake. But nothing was done. One party had the authority of law on their side, the other being supported by the true and fundamental principles of religious freedom.

In 1773, the town voted to exempt Jonathan Perry and others, notwithstanding their not giving in to the assessors certificates agreeable to law; and the next

year it was voted to leave out all persons professing to be Baptists from paying the Orthodox ministerial tax. In 1784 the society built a meeting-house on Fiske Hill, which was done and finished in 1786, its members at that time numbering eighty. The house on Fiske Hill having become decayed, a new meeting-house was built, finished, and dedicated in January, 1833, on the elevation of ground on the south side of the road, south of the Congregational Church. In June, 1838, the society voted to move their church to ground given them for the purpose by Hon. Josiah I. Fiske, at Fiskdale Village (where it now stands), which was soon after done at an expense of one thousand dollars. John Phillips was chosen deacon in 1799; was born June 29, 1760; died in 1864, at the age of one hundred and four years. The following is a list of its pastors:—

“Jordan Dodge, commenced Oct. 27, 1784, dismissed, 1778. Baldwin, Rathburn, and Root, supplied to 1796. Zenas L. Leonard, from Sept., 1796, to Oct., 1832. Abiel Fisher, supply. Addison Parker, from Jan. 8, 1833, to Dec. 12, 1835. Isaac Merriam, from Aug., 1836, to Jan., 1837. Orrin O. Stearns, from Sept., 1837, to Oct., 1839. Joel Kenney, from June, 1840, to May, 1843. J. Woodbury, from July, 1844, to Sept., 1847. Thomas Driver, from Dec. 1847, to Feb., 1849. Geo. E. Dorrence, from April, 1850, to March, 1852. Addison Parker, from May, 1852, to Sept., 1855. Geo. W. Preston, from Dec., 1855, to May, 1858. Andrew Read, from Oct., 1858, to April, 1862. J. M. Chick, from June, 1862, to Aug., 1864. Mr. Stevens, from Aug., 1864, to April, 1865. Wm. Reed, from April, 1866, to March, 1867. J. T. Farra, from Nov., 1867, to Oct., 1869. Chas. A. Cook, from Dec., 1869, to Oct., 1870. C. W. Potter, from Jan., 1871, to May, 1873. T. M. Merriam, from Aug., 1873, to May, 1876. J. H. Gannett, May, 1876.”

The Unitarian society was organized in 1864, since which time the following have sustained the pastoral charge with much credit to themselves, and to the prosperity of the society: Revs. J. A. Buckingham, Edes Irish, and Clarence Fowle; the last still labors here with much satisfaction to his people. The advancement and unanimity of the organization has been such, that in 1872 they had built, completed, and dedicated their church, situated a few rods west of the Town Hall, of the dimensions of forty by sixty feet, with a tower twelve feet square, and 106 feet in height, exhibiting symmetry and good taste, as does the general appearance of the interior. On each side of the pulpit are placed tablets with Scripture quotations: “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” “I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth.” The audience-room is eighteen feet high, with arched ceiling. It is arranged for seating about three hundred and fifty persons, having slips of a circular form, with three aisles, one in the centre and one on each side.

There is also a Protestant Episcopal Church at Fiskdale, of which the following note may serve as a history: The first service of this church was held



on Whitsunday, 1870. The hall in the old brick school-house was fitted up and has been used as a chapel by the church since its organization as a parish. The petition for organization was made July 20, 1871. The parish was organized Aug. 1, 1871, under the name of Grace Church. Rev. Samuel Spear was elected the first rector. His resignation was accepted Sept. 11, 1872. Rev. Levi Boyer accepted a call Feb. 15, 1873; resigned July 30, 1876. Rev. Estaing Jennings became rector July, 27, 1877, and is at present officiating. The parish has been liberally sustained by Mr. James C. Fisk, of Cambridge, Mass., who was also greatly interested in its original organization.

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### CHAPTER III.

PURSUIT OF AGRICULTURE — WORCESTER SOUTH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY — VALUABLE MINERALS — MANUFACTURES — COTTON MILLS — SNELL MANUFACTURING COMPANY — N. D. LADD & SONS — CONCLUSION.

A SOCIETY for the Promotion of Agriculture, existed in this town about the commencement of the present century. The Rev. Z. L. Leonard was president, and David Wight, Jr., secretary, during the first years of existence. Dea. John Phillips, Oliver Plimpton, Abner Lyon, Josiah and Nath'l Walker, Simeon Hooker, Maj. Jacob Upham and Luther Hamant were some of its members. The three last named are entitled to the credit of making the first movements in attempting to establish the present Worcester South Agricultural Society which was incorporated in the year 1855. The first exhibition of this society was given October 3 of that year. Hon. Amasa Walker delivered the address, which was considered eminently practical and well worthy the serious attention of the New England farmers. The society includes the towns of Sturbridge, Southbridge, Webster, Oxford, Charlton, Spencer, Brookfields, Warren, Brimfield and Holland.

In 1868 the society purchased land of Nelson Bennett, adjoining Cedar Pond, for a track, and erected a hall 40 by 90 feet, two stories with basement. The building committee for same were Henry Haynes and B. J. Stone of Sturbridge, B. Douty of Charlton, N. S. Hubbard of Brimfield, Solomon Shumway of Webster, John M. Clemence of Southbridge, Daniel Dwight of Dudley. Their hall at the Centre was sold to the town for \$1,750.

The land, hall and track cost the society \$13,000, leaving them in debt \$9,000, which at the present time has nearly been paid, leaving the society in good condition. It has been favored with members who have had energy and perseverance enough to not only prevent it from sinking, but to raise it up and carry it forward in its noble career of usefulness, to the pride of all its members and the community at large interested in agriculture.



In 1853, the society offered premiums and gratuities to the amount of \$174; in 1866, \$843; 1878, \$1,545.

The following is a list of officers since its incorporation to the present time:

*Presidents.* — Oliver C. Felton, Calvin P. Fiske, M. D., Newton S. Hubbard, Rufus B. Dodge, Sylvester Dresser, Daniel Dwight, Nathaniel Upham, Sam'l N. Gleason, John O. McKinstry.

*Secretaries.* — Aaron Lyon, C. P. Fiske, Saml. H. Hobbs, Saml. C. Hartwell, David Wight, Jr., John O. McKinstry, Henry Haynes, Avery P. Tayler, N. D. Ladd, Amasa C. Morse.

*Treasurers.* — Simeon F. Marsh, Melvin Haynes, David Wight, Jr., Noah D. Ladd, Amasa C. Morse, Wm. Whittemore.

In the year 1633 Mr. John Oldham of Dorchester, on his journey across the country to Connecticut River Valley, in company with the interior Indians in this region, made the discovery of the black-lead mines, and, with specimens of same, made his report at Boston that year, only thirteen years after the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, but three years after the arrival of Gov. Winthrop and his party to found the colony of Massachusetts, a century before Sturbridge received its incorporation as a town. (Mr. Oldham was murdered near Block Island, in 1636, by the Narraganset and Block Island Indians.) The grant of this tract was given to John Winthrop, Jr., by the General Court, at Boston, in 1643, situated "about sixty miles westward in which the black-lead is, and liberty to purchase some land of the Indians."

In the year 1658 the mines were first operated for procuring that mineral as a merchantable article, transporting it to Boston on horseback and in teams making their roads as they went along.

Between the years 1828 and 1839, Frederick Tudor, Esq., of Boston, became the purchaser, since which time it has been extensively wrought, and has undoubtedly been a source of profit to the owner. The quantity obtained for twenty years in succession averaged about twenty tons annually. Not unfrequently masses of pure graphite were found, weighing from 20 to 50 lbs. The lustre of this plumbago is highly metallic; its structure is between scaly and fine granular; there is sometimes an obvious approximation to distinct crystals, though mineralogists are not agreed that this substance has ever been found in such a state. Phosphate of lime and hydrate of iron have been noticed in the gneiss and forming, with the ingredients of the rock, a brecciated mixture. Vegetable relics are sometimes seen enveloped in the mass. In 1830 three men were buried by the caving of the mine, — Mr. Clentick, Mr. Cleaveland and Mr. Cheney P. Sheddon. The two first named was killed; Mr. Sheddon was released after several hours' confinement, and is living at the present time (1879). This mine for many years past has not been operated.

Another mine of plumbago is on the farm of the heirs of Capt. Lyman Morse, one mile south of the centre of the town, which was worked to some extent in 1845 or '46.

Fiskdale Village, in its early days, contained the residences of Moses, Abner and Capt. Jacob Allen, descendants of Moses Allen, the first settler. Capt. Jacob Allen was forcibly impressed with the idea that the old Quinebaug River, at this point, might be used beneficially to himself and others; this he realized by taking the first use of the water privileges and building a small grist-mill, the first and only grist-mill in town for many years. It was situated on the west bank, near the point where the present large factory dam crosses the river, at the foot of a deep descent from the road, in the midst of rugged rocks, and scenery which had never been disturbed by the hand of art. Dr. Abraham Allen, who became the possessor of his father's real estate, made some progress in building a dam, no doubt with a view to invite attention to this locality, which was found, on examination, to present flattering facilities for manufacturing purposes.

The Hon. Josiah I. Fiske, a native citizen of the town, who removed to Wrentham, Mass., where he was engaged in the practice of law for many years, is entitled to the credit of laying the foundation of cotton-manufacturing in this place, and justly claims the name the village bears.

There are two waterfalls or privileges at this point, the lower one of which had a fall of  $16\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and at this privilege Mr. Fisk in 1827 and '28 built the first mill, 84 by 40 feet, five stories, of brick. In 1829 the mill commenced making cloths, having 88 looms. In 1834-5, on the upper privilege, which has a fall of  $23\frac{1}{2}$  feet, situated about one-eighth of a mile from the lower privilege, Mr. Fisk built a stone-mill 180 by 40 feet, five stories high, and in 1836 it was filled with machinery and commenced to manufacture 64 by 64 printing-cloths, having 10,000 spindles and 200 looms. This year a charter was granted to form a company, under the name of the Sturbridge Cotton Mills, with a capital of \$100,000, which purchased the entire property.

Mr. Harvey Hartshorn of Wrentham, Mass., was the first agent until 1832, when Mr. Simeon A. Drake succeeded him until 1854, when he was chosen treasurer, and Mr. William B. Whiting succeeded Mr. Drake as agent until he was succeeded by Mr. Kehew. In the great financial panic of 1857 all the firms and companies to which the Sturbridge Cotton Mills had sold their cloths for several months previous failed, which obliged the corporation to suspend payment, and early in the year of 1858 the mills were closed. In April, 1859, a compromise was made with the creditors, and the mills were again started, with Mr. Bowers S. Chase as agent. Mr. James C. Fisk of Cambridge, Mass., was chosen treasurer, and has filled that office since that time. The water supply in the Quinebaug River having been very much increased by the making of large reservoirs, the old mills were found much too small to use all the water-power. In May, 1869, work was begun at the upper privilege, about fifty feet north of the stone mill, on a new mill three stories high, 182 by 70 feet, with an L extension 72 by 56 feet. The foundation of all parts of this mill rests upon solid rock, and the wheel-pit and canal were excavated out of the same.



The machinery is operated by a Leffel wheel, having two hundred and eighty horse-power. Every part of the mill has the modern improvements, and has a light and airy aspect. This mill has 17,504 spindles and 400 looms. In 1870, work was commenced at the lower privilege for large additions and alterations in the old mill, where, in place of the small mill built by Mr. J. I. Fisk in 1828, now stands a large and picturesque-looking mill, which presents an imposing and handsome appearance, having over 11,000 spindles and 300 looms in operation. These two mills consume 3,600 bales of cotton a year, and make over 9,200,000 yards of 64 by 64 printing-cloths. The company have one hundred tenements, which are kept in prime condition, making the general aspect of the village, as acknowledged by all, a very pleasant and homelike one for the operatives, who are made as comfortable, if not more so, than in any other manufacturing village in New England. Mr. Chase resigned as agent in July, 1875, and Mr. George H. Sparkawh succeeded him. In 1869 an act of Legislature authorized a change of the corporate name of the Sturbridge Cotton Mills, to be hereafter known as the Fiskdale Mills, and also authorized an increase of capital stock, so that it be may \$500,000. The company accepted these acts, and increased in 1871 its capital stock to \$350,000.

Much credit is given Mr. James C. Fisk by the citizens of Sturbridge for the substantial improvements accomplished through his energy and zeal, showing good taste and sound judgment in all his works, which, including the beautiful decorations of nature, demand universal attention from all, and attract with that pleasure and admiration which our townspeople justly appreciate.

Mr. Liberty Allen, a descendant of Moses Allen, commenced in 1830, and still continues, the tanning business on the same site where his grandfather, Abner Allen, carried on the manufacture of pumps for over fifty years.

The post-office was established in Fiskdale in 1842.

H. Haynes & Son, manufacturers of carriages, sleighs and harnesses at the Centre, have quite a reputation in that line of business, which was commenced by Mr. H. Haynes in 1834.

The manufacture of augers and bits was commenced in the year 1842 in Wight Village by Messrs. Snell. In 1847 Messrs. Town, Chaffee & Co. built a large brick shop for the manufacturing of the same by steam-power, which was purchased by Messrs. Snell & Bros. In 1852 their old mill and contents were destroyed by fire, a new building was erected the same year, two stories, 100 by 32 feet, on the site of the old mill. In 1853 two stone mills were built, 100 by 45 feet and 46 by 36 feet. Other buildings for dwellings were erected and new streets laid out, at an expenditure of \$30,000. In 1854 there were some seventy-five hands employed in the works.

In the year 1857 Mr. Otis Snell, financial manager of the firm, died. This year was very disastrous to the hardware trade generally, and many firms were swept away by reason of the depression in trade; but this firm weathered the storm until 1860, when a failure took place and the business passed into the



hands of Mr. John W. Draper, who carried on the works until 1863, when Messrs. Clark & Wilson, an old hardware firm in New York, and E. L. Bates of Fiskdale, purchased the entire business, and formed a partnership under the name of the Snell Manufacturing Company, E. L. Bates treasurer and resident agent, which has continued until the present time, Dea. Thomas Snell and sons, Lucius and Augustine, being retained as manufacturers in the business. During the progress of the war, many goods were furnished to the various departments of government by this manufactory, and it maintained a prosperous existence until the panic of 1873, when, for the next few years, trade in mechanics' tools were diminished very much, although the Snell Manufacturing Company had obtained the reputation of making goods superior to any in the market, and have always kept their works in operation. Its sales in some years have exceeded \$100,000, and customers extend to many countries in Europe, Australia, Brazil and Cuba, in addition to all parts of the United States. In 1877 Mr. J. C. Wilson died, and April, 1879, Mr. Clark sold his interest to two young men, Messrs. Tennis & Wilson of New York, who continue with Mr. E. L. Bates, who makes all purchases and attends to the sales and financial part of the business, and, in October, 1879, are employing sixty-five men in the works.

N. D. Ladd & Sons, manufacturers of cutters and dies, have earned a good reputation and do quite an extensive business, to the amount of \$10,000 to \$14,000 yearly. On the site of the present shop, Mr. D. K. Porter built, in 1840, a shop for a pistol manufactory, for Messrs. Gibbs & Bros. In 1844 Messrs. Snell & Chaffee purchased the property and commenced the first manufactory of bits and augers in this town. In 1846 Sumner Packard purchased the property and manufactured awls and general shoe-kit tools. In April, 1849, the shop was burnt, and rebuilt by Mr. Packard; and, in 1855, Mr. Charles Varney bought out Mr. Packard and carried on the same business until 1857, when he put in connection with his trade the manufacture of cutters and dies. In 1862, Mr. Varney sold a half interest to F. W. Slayton; and, in 1863, F. W. & H. Slayton succeeded to the whole. In 1864 Mr. N. D. Ladd purchased a third interest, and, in 1865, Messrs. Ladd & Wight bought the whole property. In 1867 Mr. Wight retired, and Mr. Ladd has carried on the business since under the name of N. D. Ladd & Sons. In June, 1878, the shop was burnt, but was rebuilt the same year.

S U T T O N .

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BY REV. WILLIAM A. BENEDICT.

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## CHAPTER I.

ANCIENT PURCHASE — GRANT BY GENERAL COURT — INCORPORATION — ALTERATIONS OF TERRITORY — PHYSICAL ASPECTS — LAKES AND STREAMS — GEOLOGY — FIRST PROPRIETORSHIPS — INDIAN RELATIONS — EARLY SETTLEMENT — PROVINCIAL WARS — THE TOWN IN THE REVOLUTION — INSURRECTION — CONSTITUTION ADOPTED — LATER WARS — THE SOUTHERN REBELLION — INTERESTING HISTORY OF SMALL-ARMS.

THE township of Sutton was purchased by certain persons residing in Boston, of John Wampus, alias White, and company, Indians, and is designated as "a tract of waste land, situated in the Nipmug country, eight miles square, lying between the towns of Mendon, Worcester, New Oxford, Sherburne, and Marlborough, embracing within its limits an Indian reservation four miles square, called Hassanimisco, and possessed by the Indians."

The old Indian deed is lost, but the sale was confirmed by grant made by the General Court of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, May 15, 1704. In this grant the boundaries as above mentioned are given, and it is added, "the same to be called Sutton, and to have, use, exercise, and enjoy the same powers, immunities, and privileges by law granted to towns."

No other act of incorporation seems to have been given or sought.

The territory which the town originally covered was so large that the inhabitants living near the outside limits found it very inconvenient to go to the centre to attend town meetings and transact their town business, and numbers of them had from time to time petitioned to be set off to adjoining towns or allowed to unite with others in forming a new township.

Grafton, embracing the Indian reservation of Hassanimisco, and a narrow strip of territory in addition, was incorporated as a town in 1735; several families, with their lands, at the north-east part of the town, had been set off to Uxbridge; from which, and some portions of the adjoining towns, Upton was formed. At the north-west part of the town quite a large number of families

had united with others in Worcester and Oxford, and formed the town of Ward, now Auburn; and on several occasions a few families in the south part had been set off to Northbridge, and a new precinct or parish, three miles in width, had been formed in the north part of the town. This precinct was, by act of the Legislature, incorporated as the town of Millbury, June 11, 1813. Since this date several attempts have been made to effect a further dismemberment of the town, all of which have been opposed by a majority of the people and have failed.

In its physical aspect, the town presents many attractive features. Its surface is uneven and hilly, and, though none of its hills rise to great height, many of them are of sufficient elevation to reveal from their summits scenes of quiet beauty unsurpassed in any other portion of New England.

There are several natural ponds within its limits, the principal of which are Ramshorn, in the north-western part; Manchaug, in the south-western; and Crooked Pond (Singletary Lake), near the centre. From these ponds flow streams which furnish valuable water-privileges. The Blackstone River — called by the Indians Kittatuck — has its rise in Ramshorn Pond,\* and flows through the town from north-west to south-east.

In its geological features, the town presents nothing of a peculiar nature. The rocky formation is chiefly granite, quartz, and gneiss. Gneiss predominates, and the quarries which have been opened furnish most excellent stone for building purposes.

Near the centre is an immense chasm, called Purgatory, about one hundred rods in length and from thirty to forty feet in width, with walls of solid rock nearly perpendicular and in some places about sixty feet in height. It is one of the most remarkable natural curiosities in the State and attracts many visitors.

The proprietors of the town named in the grant of the General Court were, "John Conner, pewterer; James Smith, shop-keeper; William Mumford, stone-cutter; and Joshua Hewes, inn-keeper, and others their partners; Paul Dudley, Esq., of Boston; John Jackson, of Boston, housewright; Mary Conner and Elizabeth Pittom, daughters and co-heirs of John Pittom, plumber, deceased; Edward Pratt, of Newtown, within the county of Middlesex, physician; and Elizabeth Wilson, of Hartford, in the county of Connecticut, widow."

The condition of the grant was that the above-named proprietors "intrench upon no former grant of the General Court, and that they be obliged to settle a town of thirty families, and a minister, upon said lands within seven years after the close of the present war with the Indians,† and that they reserve three hundred acres of the said lands for the first settled minister and four hundred for the ministry, and two hundred acres for the use of a school, all to be conveniently located."

\* So called from the crooked course of the river for several miles.

† Queen Anne's war, which began in 1702 and closed in 1713.



The first meeting of the proprietors of which there is any record was held in Boston Nov. 17, 1714. It seems that at this meeting, or about this time, they divided the township, which was supposed to contain at least thirty thousand acres, after deducting the Indian reservation of Hassanimisco, into sixty rights of five hundred acres each. Every purchaser of one of these rights became a proprietor. Actual surveys were made from time to time of sixty lots, — first of thirty acres each, then of one hundred acres, &c., — each five hundred-acre right being entitled to one of these lots.

During the year 1716 three families were found of sufficient nerve and enterprise to pioneer the settlement of the town. These families were those of Benjamin Marsh, Elisha Johnson, and Nathaniel Johnson. They built their cabins near the centre of the town and spent there the winter of 1716-17. It was the winter made memorable by the deep snow which fell the last days of February and wholly covered the cabins. Elisha Johnson had left his family the morning of the day the snow commenced falling, for the purpose of obtaining some supplies in Marlborough. He was seen on his way by a friendly Indian, who, when the storm had subsided, started, on snow-shoes, for the little settlement and found the cabin of Mr. Johnson by the hole which the smoke of the fire-place had made through the snow. Mrs. Johnson said "no human voice ever sounded half so sweet to her as did the voice of that Indian calling through that hole." To facilitate the settlement of the town the proprietors set apart four thousand acres near the centre, which they offered as a gift to the thirty families who would "settle first," and upon this tract had thirty "home lots," of forty acres each, laid out. During the latter part of the year 1717 and the first part of 1718, thirty families were found to whom the offer of a farm for the taking was sufficient inducement to move into the wilderness. These thirty families were styled "proprietors of the four thousand acres," and divided among themselves the land remaining after the home lots were laid out.

Among these families we find the names of William and Jonathan King, and Benjamin Marsh (one of the three pioneers), John and William Stockwell, Freegrace Marble, and John, Joseph, and Jonathan Sibley, whose descendants in town are still numerous.

As Sutton was an inland town and the Indians upon the Hassanimisco reservation were friendly, the early settlers were exempt from Indian depredations and suffered only the inconveniences incident to the first settlement of a new region of country.

The first town meeting was held Dec. 3, 1718, at the house of John Stockwell, at which the township was properly officered, and, under favorable auspices, started on its course.

The population increased rapidly, and was composed of those who were ever ready to bear their full proportion of public burdens.

Upon the declaration of King George's war at Boston, June 2, 1744, Sutton

shared in the excitement which pervaded the Colonies, and furnished her full proportion of men and means. April 4, 1745, it is recorded: "This day is a fast-day to implore of God His mercy and smiles on our expedition to Cape Breton" (against Louisburg, the stronghold of the French on that island). July 18 a public thanksgiving was held on the "occasion of y<sup>e</sup> taking of Cape Breton."

Sept. 24, 1746, there was an alarm that the French were invading Boston, and the men turned out almost *en masse*, and hastened to its defence, the minister sharing in the enthusiasm and going with them.

At the announcement of the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748, there was great rejoicing.

For the French and Indian war which soon followed, commencing early in 1754, Sutton sent into the field, for longer or shorter terms of service, more than three hundred men. The peace of 1763, brought about by the treaty of Paris, was soon followed by the agitations throughout all the Colonies caused by the well-known measures of the mother country in her treatment of her American subjects.

In the fall of 1766, the representative of the town to the General Court was instructed to look into the matter of making restitution to the Lieutenant-Governor and others for the damages they had sustained in the "late riot and disturbances in the town of Boston."

In Dec., 1767, the town "voted to come into the measures that had been adopted in Boston respecting industry, economy and manufactures," and a committee was appointed to examine carefully into the existing state of things, and report at the next March meeting. This committee reported as follows:—

"Whereas, The happiness and well being of civil communities depend upon industry, economy and good morals; and this town, taking into serious consideration the great decay of the trade of the Province, the scarcity of money, the heavy debts contracted in the late war, which still remain on the people, and the great difficulties to which they are by these means reduced,—

"Resolved, That this town will use their utmost endeavors, and enforce their endeavors by *example*, in suppressing extravagance, idleness and vice, and promoting industry, economy and good morals. And in order to prevent the unnecessary exportation of money, of which the Province has of late been so much drained, it is further—

"Resolved, That this town will by all prudent means endeavor to discontinue the use of foreign superfluities, and to encourage manufactures."

As the measures of England became more and more oppressive, and the responses to petitions for a redress of grievances more and more arrogant, the militia were placed under drill, a stock of ammunition was secured, and a band of minute-men, well mounted and armed, formed under the command of Col. Jonathan Holman.

When the news of the battle of Lexington reached the town on the evening

of April 19, 1775, this band sprang to their saddles, and, riding all night, reached the scene of conflict early on the morning of the 20th.

Within about thirty days from that date, a full regiment, raised in Sutton and adjoining towns, under the command of Col. Ebenezer Learned of Oxford, reported for duty at Roxbury. This regiment enlisted for eight months, and, their time having expired, the men were regularly discharged.

Another regiment was immediately formed of men from "Sutton, Oxford, Charlton and Dudley, including adjacent lands," and placed under the command of Col. Jonathan Holman of Sutton. His regiment, composed largely of men from Sutton, and under the command of a Sutton officer, was known as "The Sutton Regiment," and was allotted to that portion of the army under the immediate command of Gen. Washington. It was called to arduous service, and never found wanting.

Of the forty-three towns comprising the county of Worcester during the Revolutionary war, Sutton was the third in population and wealth, Brookfield and Lancaster only surpassing it in these respects; and it was excelled by none in the loyalty of its inhabitants, and the promptness with which every requisition of the Continental Congress for men and supplies was met.

Before the independence of the Colonies was declared, the town —

"*Voted*, That, if the Honorable Congress should, for the safety of these Colonies, declare them independent of the kingdom of Great Britain, the inhabitants of this town will solemnly engage with their lives and fortunes to support them in the measure."

A committee of "Correspondence, Inspection and Safety" was chosen each year during the war, and for several years after its close. This committee was vigilant and efficient in action, at one time stopping quite a number of loads of rum, sugar and salt which were being "transported out of the State" in violation of the law prohibiting such transportation. They also dealt rigidly with any who appeared to be "inimical to the cause of America," or "spoke any thing against the Regulating Acts."

In 1777 Sutton united with several of the adjoining towns in sending a petition to the General Court for the modification or repeal of "An Act for drawing in the Bills of Credit, &c.," which petition characterized the said act as "big with injustice, oppression and cruelty."

Upon the occasion of the surrender of Cornwallis and his army, a mass meeting of the citizens was held, at which, it was said, "every demonstration of joy in their power was shown." Among the toasts drank were the following: —

"May all malicious pimps of British George, and lovers of tyranny, be swept off with the besom of the thirteen United States of America!"

"May that traitor Arnold, and all his accomplices, be suspended between heaven and earth, as unworthy of either!"

"May those heroes who have nobly bled in defence of their Country be heard of in nations unknown, and ever be remembered in ages to come!"



The people of Sutton, as well as those of other towns, were greatly impoverished by the war. They had contributed a large amount of money to pay the soldiers they had furnished, and to meet the requisitions of the government. In many instances, they had mortgaged their property to pay taxes. Having no means to meet their obligations, Continental money being worthless, it was natural that they should cast about for some means of relief. They secured the calling of a County Convention to discuss the situation, and, if possible, devise some means to alleviate the general distress, and save their property, which was being attached for debts. This convention, the president of which was Dea. Willis Hall of Sutton, had several meetings, and its proceedings were made the subject of severe strictures by a writer in the "Massachusetts Spy," and an exhibition of much bitterness of feeling against Sutton, in view of the prominent part its citizens had taken in its assembling and deliberations.

A failure to secure relief from grievances, led, near the close of the year 1786, to Shays' Rebellion. But with this insurrection, with few exceptions, the people of Sutton had no sympathy. They had been most earnest in seeking a removal of the causes out of which it sprang, and now, in opposing the violent and revolutionary measures of the insurgents, they manifested equal earnestness, responding in large numbers to the call of Col. Holman, who raised a body of men, and marched to Petersham to aid in bringing them to terms.

The few who had disfranchised themselves by aiding the rebellion are recorded as having delivered up their arms, and "subscribed the oath of allegiance as prescribed in the Constitution, in compliance with a Court Act, dated Feb. 16, 1787, for indemnifying certain persons who are, or may be guilty of treason."

Great interest was taken in the Convention called to amend the Articles of Confederation, and especially when it was found that the idea of amending had been abandoned and a new Constitution was being framed. The delegates chosen to represent the town in the State Convention called to take into consideration the new Constitution and ratify it if approved, had definite instructions given them by a committee of the most able men in town. The rejoicings when this Constitution went into effect were very general.

In the war of 1812 no especial interest was taken, and but few men entered the service. The same may be said of the war with Mexico during the administration of President Polk. But when Fort Sumter was fired upon, in 1861, the spirit of '76 was again aroused. At a town meeting held April 30, 1861, a series of resolutions having the true patriotic ring was passed, one of which is the following : —

"*Resolved*, That in this most unnatural contest waged against our country by a band of traitors in our Southern States, we, the inhabitants of Sutton, believing that the whole strength of the country should be exerted in an efficient manner to put down

rebellion, call upon the Government of the United States to make no terms or compromises with traitors, but to carry on the war in such a manner and with such force as will strengthen the Union sentiment, which we believe still exists in portions of the rebellious States, and overwhelm those who, regardless of all obligations, seek a division of our beloved country."

Good arms were the great need, and there was, for some reason, a prejudice against the most efficient arm of the day, the breech-loader.

In the first session of the Massachusetts Legislature for 1863, the military committee (unanimously on the part of the House) reported a bill for the purchase of small-arms and ordnance, and five hundred thousand dollars were appropriated for the purpose. This bill restricted the purchase to the Springfield-musket pattern. The representative from the twenty-fifth district was from Sutton—a native of the town. He moved to amend by striking out "Springfield-musket pattern," and inserting "of such pattern as the Governor and Council shall deem best adapted to the service." The amendment was lost and the bill went to the Senate. The member from Sutton called the attention of some of the most influential of the senators to the importance of the amendment, and it was introduced and adopted. The bill was returned to the House for concurrence, and a special assignment made for its consideration. When it was called, the member from Sutton moved to concur in the Senate's amendment, and to show the superiority of the breech-loading rifle over the muzzle-loading arm, contrasted it, gun in hand—(an expert having in hand the Springfield musket, and going through the motions of loading and firing as rapidly as possible, he doing the same)—with the arm recommended by government. Extracts from letters written by distinguished generals in the army, who had had proof on the battle-field of the efficiency of the breech-loader in the hands of the rebels, were also read, and so convincing was the argument that the House, by a large majority, reversed its former vote, and concurred in the amendment of the Senate.

A commission was appointed to examine, test and select the best breech-loading rifle. This commission recommended the adoption of the Spencer repeating rifle, and a contract was made for a large supply for the State.

The Secretary of War, learning that Massachusetts had adopted the Spencer repeating rifle, and then had a supply of several thousands ready for her troops as they might be called for, requested the Governor to turn them over to the United States Government, that they might be immediately placed in the hands of men in the field.

Gov. Andrew at once complied with the request, and the government forthwith ordered the construction of a large number on its own account.

It is an interesting historical fact that Massachusetts enjoys the honor of first placing in the hands of infantry, *by authority of government*, a weapon that is more destructive than any heretofore in use, and as such will do much to shorten wars. And with just pride do we record the fact that the member from Sutton initiated



the change by his amendment to the bill for the purchase of arms, and when his amendment was lost, used such influence with the senators as to secure its adoption by the Senate, and when the bill was returned to the House for concurrence, single-handed and alone confronted the military committee, who continued to advocate the muzzle-loader, and by his convincing arguments, enforced by practical illustration, brought the majority most enthusiastically to the support of his measure.

The town furnished two hundred and twenty-three men for the war, which was eight in excess of its quota. Two were commissioned officers. The whole amount of money appropriated and expended on account of the war, exclusive of State aid, was \$25,180.14.

The amount of money paid by the town for State aid to soldiers' families during the war, and afterward repaid by the State, was as follows: In 1861, \$501.91; 1862, \$2,410.71; 1863, \$3,212.70; 1864, \$1,725.76; 1865, \$1,901.26; total amount, \$9,725.34. A special tax was levied to pay the war-debt, and it was extinguished.

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## CHAPTER II.

ECCELESIASTICAL MATTERS — FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH — SECOND CONGREGATIONAL — FIRST BAPTIST — SECOND BAPTIST — THIRD BAPTIST — ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL — FREEWILL BAPTIST — UNIVERSALIST — MANCHAUG BAPTIST — PRESBYTERIAN — METHODIST — EDUCATIONAL HISTORY — LIBRARY.

THE religious history of the town begins with its civil history. At the first town meeting a committee was chosen to join with a committee of the proprietors "for building and furnishing a meeting-house." At the meeting held in March, 1719, it was "voted to have a minister this summer." A meeting-house was built during the year, and the annual town meeting in March, 1720, was held in it. At an adjourned meeting held March 21, 1720, the town voted for a minister, and "made choice of Mr. John McKinstry to settle among them at a salary of sixty pounds a year." A church of twenty members, all males, was formed in the fall of 1720, and November 9, Mr. McKinstry was ordained pastor, the town making the arrangements for his ordination.

Mr. McKinstry was a Scotchman, of Presbyterian proclivities, and consequently not altogether acceptable to stanch Congregationalists. He was dismissed at a town meeting held Sept. 2, 1728. The record is as follows: "Put to vote to see whether the town would dismiss Mr. John McKinstry from preaching here in Sutton, and it passed in ye affirmative and there was not any votes in ye negative."

Mr. McKinstry was succeeded by Rev. David Hall, D.D., who was ordained Oct. 15, 1729, and died May 8, 1789.



The succeeding pastors of the church have been: the Revs. Edmund Mills, ordained June 22, 1790, died Nov. 7, 1825; John Maltby, ordained June 28, 1826, dismissed July 14, 1834; Hiram A. Tracy, ordained Jan. 1, 1835, dismissed Dec. 11, 1850; George Lyman, ordained Nov. 12, 1851, dismissed Nov. 12, 1867; F. E. Fellows, installed Oct. 26, 1869, dismissed Jan. 3, 1871; H. A. Tracy, acting pastor from January, 1871, to October, 1875; William A. Benedict, installed Feb. 16, 1876.

The salary of the minister and other church expenses were for some years provided for by a tax upon property, in accordance with the universal custom of the day. The last of such taxes was collected in 1793.

An act incorporating the "First Congregational Society" passed the House of Representatives June 27, 1794, and the society organized in accordance with its provisions Aug. 18, 1794.

The first meeting-house was erected in 1719, the second in 1751. This was burned Nov. 3, 1828, and the present house built in 1829.

The inhabitants of the north part of Sutton were incorporated a parish Oct. 28, 1743. The first meeting was held Dec. 26, 1743. The church was organized under the name of the Second Congregational Church, Sept. 10, 1747, and consisted of forty persons, all males, twenty-eight of the members having been dismissed from the First Congregational Church.

In November following, thirty females, all dismissed from the First Church, were received into fellowship.

The pastors of the church have been: Revs. James Wellman, ordained Oct. 7, 1747, dismissed July 22, 1760; Ebenezer Chaplin, ordained Nov. 14, 1764, dismissed Dec. 20, 1791; Joseph Goffe, ordained Sept. 10, 1794.

In the year 1813 the north parish was incorporated as the town of Millbury, from which time its history belongs with that town.

The First Baptist Church was organized Sept. 16, 1735, and was the fourth oldest church of the denomination in Massachusetts.

In 1737 Benjamin Marsh and Thomas Green were ordained its joint pastors. The same year a branch went off from this church and organized a Baptist church in Leicester, of which Elder Green became pastor. Elder Marsh died in 1775. During the Revolutionary war the church became much reduced in membership, and, "rent with dissension," was dropped from the Warren Association.

In 1785 a re-organization was effected, and Ebenezer Lamson was chosen pastor. In 1794 Mr. Lamson announced his belief in open communion and universal salvation. He was at once dismissed, excommunicated, and his ordination declared a nullity. The other pastors have been: Elders William Batcheller; Samuel Waters, ordained 1799, dismissed 1825; Moses Harrington, ordained 1825, dismissed 1828; John Walker, installed 1831, dismissed 1836; Charles H. Peabody, 1837; Otis Converse, 1840; Samuel Richards, 1842; George Daland, 1843; Job B. Boomer, installed 1846; G. W. Benton, 1849; J. Thayer, 1850; L. O. Lovel, 1852, dismissed 1856; O. Crane,

1859; J. D. Donovan, 1860; David Avery, 1862; C. L. Baker, 1863, died 1864; J. Barber, 1864; G. Stone, 1865; N. Medbery, 1867; A. E. Battelle, 1869; J. H. Tilton, 1871; E. J. Stevens, 1872; C. F. Myres, 1873; E. J. Stevens, 1876; J. P. Chapin, 1878.

The first meeting-house was built about 1750, near the centre of the town. A second house was built in —, on Freeland Hill, about half a mile west of the first. The present house at West Sutton was dedicated in 1830.

The Second Baptist Church was organized in South Sutton, Oct. 9, 1792, with a membership of thirty-six persons. The pastors of the church have been: Elders William Batcheller, 1792; Nathan Leonard, ordained Nov. 15, 1809; William Bacheller, 1810; Job B. Boomer, ordained 1819; Austin Robbins, 1841; N. Underwood, 1842; Nelson B. Jones, 1845; Joseph Thayer, ordained 1847; J. B. Boomer, 1849; R. G. Lamb, 1852; Charles A. Snow, 1853; Abial Fisher, D. D., 1855; Justus Aldrich, 1858; J. B. Boomer, 1859; Joseph P. Burbank, 1862; N. J. Pinkham, 1869; J. P. Burbank, 1870; Philip Berry, 1873; J. P. Burbank, 1875; J. C. Boomer, 1878. The meeting-house was built in 1804-5, and dedicated July 2, 1805.

The Third Baptist Church was organized Feb. 10, 1810, and seems to have been composed of persons formerly in connection with a Baptist church in Thompson, Conn.

Mr. Turner Fuller was licensed by the church to exercise his gifts among them as a preacher of the gospel, which he continued to do for some years. He was ordained Oct. 13, 1819. The meetings were usually held at private houses; sometimes in the meeting-house of the First Baptist Church, on Freeland Hill. Elder Turner Fuller was its only pastor. Its action in dismissing certain members in 1834 is referred to in the record of the Freewill Baptist Church, and it probably ceased to exist about that time.

St. John's (Episcopal) Church is located in the village of Wilkinsonville. The enterprise which culminated in the establishment of this church was commenced by Rev. Daniel Le Baron Goodwin, July 17, 1825. The organization was effected March 10, 1827, under the name of St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church. The rectors have been: Revs. D. Le B. Goodwin, from July 17, 1825, to April, 1854; Benjamin H. Chase, April, 1854, to April, 1858; A. Decatur Spalter, June, 1858, to December, 1859; William George Hawkins, April, 1860, to April, 1862; George Sturges Paine, September, 1862, to September, 1863; Samuel S. Spear, January, 1864, to January, 1867; Thomas L. Randolph, January, 1867, to December, 1870; Henry A. Metcalf, June, 1871, to June, 1874; James S. Ellis, July, 1874. The meeting-house was erected in 1828.

The record in reference to the organization of the Freewill Baptist Church, under date of Nov. 1, 1834, is: "The five brethren and six sisters came together, having letters of dismission and commendation from the Third Baptist Church in Sutton, then visible."

Elder Willard Fuller was chosen pastor, and meetings were held at his house until 1838, when a meeting-house was built upon his land about a mile west of Manchaug. Services continued to be held in this house until 1858 or '59, and perhaps occasionally later than that date.

The church had but one minister,—Rev. W. Fuller. It was his request that after his death the meeting-house should be sold and the proceeds given to the Freewill Baptist Home Missionary Society. He died Dec. 8, 1875. The house was sold and taken down in 1876.

A Universalist Society was organized in August, 1840, and held its meetings for a time in the hall of the hotel at West Sutton; then in the academy building there; then in a hall at the centre. The records show the settlement of but two pastors,—Rev. Alvan Abbot, who commenced his labors March, 1841, and a young man by the name of Tingley, ordained in the fall of 1846. The last meeting of which there is any record was held April 5, 1847.

The Baptist church in Manchaug was organized May 18, 1842, with thirty members. The pastors and their periods of service have been as follows: Elders W. H. Dalrymple, one year two months; N. B. Jones, one year four months; George Daland, one year six months; Abial Fisher, four years; N. Chapman, two years; J. S. Harradon, six years nine months; N. J. Pinkham, one year seven months; Addison Brown, seven months; D. A. Dearborn, four years; C. L. Thompson, four years five months; J. C. Boomer, 1878.

The United Presbyterian Church in Wilkinsonville was organized in 1855 by the Associate Presbytery of Albany, N. Y., and continued in connection with that body until 1858, when, at the union of the Associate and Associate Reformed churches, which took place in Pittsburg, Pa., May 26, 1858, it became one of the congregations of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. The original founders of the Sutton United Presbyterian congregation were families from the Province of Ulster, Londonderry County, Ireland.

The pastors have been: Revs. James Williamson, installed February, 1856, and continued in the pastorate nearly eight years; P. Y. Smith, installed Feb. 28, 1866.

There has also been a Methodist Episcopal church. It was first organized June 12, 1853, and the congregation worshipped in Washington Hall, at the centre, until the meeting-house, built in 1854-5, was ready for occupancy.

The pastors have been: Revs. John W. Lee, 1853-4; John H. Gaylord, 1855; Rodney Gage, 1856-7; Newell S. Spaulding, 1858; William A. Clapp, 1859; J. J. Woodbury, 1860; Charles W. Macreading, 1861; S. O. Brown, 1862.

Owing to financial embarrassments, the church in 1864 concluded to disband, and the conference transferred all its members to the Methodist church in Millbury.

The meeting-house, which stood upon the common, a little south of the



school-house, was unoccupied for several years, then sold at auction, and bought by the late Stephen B. Holbrook, moved and converted into the dwelling-house now occupied by his heirs.

There is no mention of schools upon the records of the town previously to 1725, and then only in connection with the proposed sale of the school lands. The first record with reference to a public school is found in the year 1730, when it was "voted that a school should be kept for four months, in four places, one month in a place." In 1732 the town was presented at the court for failure to employ a school-master as the law required, and a fine imposed.

In 1735 a committee was appointed to see how many school-houses were wanted, but no action was taken in the matter. Until 1752, and perhaps a little later, all the schools were kept in private houses. In 1761 permission was given by vote of the town to "set a school-house on the highway near to Mr. Jephtha Putnam's."

In 1766 a committee was raised to divide the town into school districts, but at the same time the town refused to make any appropriation for building school-houses. In 1773 the town was regularly divided into school districts, fourteen in number, but a proposition to make the schools free was defeated.

The treasurer's book contains no order for the payment of a grammar school master, regularly employed as such, previously to 1793. From this it is evident that the law requiring the establishment of grammar schools had not been complied with. In 1828 there was a new division of the town into twelve school districts. Millbury had been set off since the last division. In 1849 a committee was appointed to make a revision of the school districts. Their report was accepted. The number was thirteen, and their boundaries as then defined are substantially those of the districts of the town at the present time.

About the beginning of the present century the desire for better educational advantages than were afforded by the public schools of the town began to find expression in the establishment of private schools. Of these there have been quite a number, and some of them of a high order.

Toward the establishment of a high school no action was taken until 1860, when the following article was inserted in the warrant for the annual town meeting, "to see if the town will establish a high school or act or do anything relative to the same."

After earnest discussion of the matter by the friends of the measure, the whole thing was indefinitely postponed. In 1864 (see sect. 1, chap. 142, Acts of 1865) and for several succeeding years, no apportionment of the income of the State School Fund was made to Sutton. In 1866 another attempt was made to secure a vote for the establishment of a high school with no better success than in 1860. It was not until the annual town meeting of 1873 that a vote was carried for the *maintenance* of a high school, and an appropriation made for the same. The school was commenced April 14, 1873,

under the instruction of Walter A. Wheeler, and was for the first year a "moving school," under three different teachers. The first term it was at Wilkinsonville, the second at West Sutton, and the third at the centre.

At the March meeting, 1874, it was located for the year at the centre. Mr. Walter A. Wheeler was secured as principal. It is still maintained at the centre, and Mr. Wheeler continues in charge.

In 1874 an association was formed for the purpose of establishing a free public library.

Donations of money and books were sought, and freely given by residents of the town and others interested in the enterprise. After being open to the public a sufficient length of time to show that it was appreciated as meeting a want long felt, it was offered to and accepted by the town, which makes appropriations from year to year for the purchase of books and other expenses.

It now contains something more than two thousand volumes, and is free to all citizens of the town.

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### CHAPTER III.

#### EARLY MANUFACTURES—PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT—AGRICULTURE—BIOGRAPHY—EMINENT PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER CHARACTERS.

WE have seen that the people of this town took action, in 1768, for the encouragement of manufactures. Every house were a manufactory of woolen, linen, and tow-cloth.

Every farmer was a producer of wool and flax. As the carding was all done by hand, it was natural that the first manufacturing of the town should be the production of those articles most needed in making woolen and linen cloth.

Hand-cards are found among the first, if not the first, articles made in Sutton. These were manufactured by Jonathan Hale, who came from Salem in 1747, and several others between that date and 1795, from which time nothing in that line has been done in town.

Comb-making was introduced about 1780, by Simeon Carpenter, who came from Attleborough, and carried on quite extensively by him, and by Levi and Jonathan Fuller, who came from the same place.

Scythe, hoe, and axe making was also carried on at an early date in many places,—scythe-making in particular. To facilitate the forging of these articles trip-hammers were introduced very soon after coming into use in older towns. As early as 1793 few towns surpassed Sutton in manufacturing enterprise. The fine water-privileges along the outlet of Crooked Pond were at an early date utilized. The first privilege, where W. H. Wheeler's cotton-factory now stands, was occupied by the grist-mill built by John Singletary; upon the

second there was a scythe-shop; the next, where the mill of M. A. Lapham stands, was occupied by the paper-mill of Abijah Burbank. This mill, built in 1775-6, was the first paper-mill erected in the county, and the fourth or fifth in Massachusetts. It was, for most of the time during the Revolutionary war, the sole dependence for paper of the printing-office of Isaiah Thomas in Worcester.

Just below the paper-mill was an oil-mill for the manufacture of linseed oil; still further down the stream, a powder-mill, built by the Provincial Government; next to this a gun manufactory, afterwards changed into a manufactory of scythes, axes, saws, mill-irons, steel plates, &c., in making which an extensive business for the day was done.

Tanning and currying, printing, and clock and watch making were also carried on to a considerable extent.

The boot and shoe business was started not far from 1835, and was carried on by various parties, increasing until 1855, when the business connected with it amounted to about \$1,000 a day, but soon began to decline in consequence of the tendency to concentrate in large places in the hands of large capitalists.

The manufacture of shuttles was begun many years since, and is now an important business at Marbleville and Wilkinsonville.

At Woodburyville woolen goods of various kinds have been manufactured, Kentucky jeans and satinets. At Pleasant Valley the first cloth woven by power-looms in town was made, and the first broadcloth.

On the same stream, a short distance above, is a mill where a superior quality of flour was once made, known in market as "Sutton flour."

The manufacture of cotton cloth was begun in Wilkinsonville in 1823. The mill has been enlarged several times, and its manufacturing capacity increased until the annual production amounts to two million yards sixty-four square print cloths.

The most important manufacturing interest of the town is that of Manchaug. The advantages as a motive power of the stream which is the outlet of Manchaug Pond, and is fed by streams flowing from several other ponds in the vicinity, were recognized by a number of gentlemen passing through the place on their way from Providence to Worcester and Boston, as early as 1825. They determined, if possible, to utilize it for manufacturing purposes. At this time there was nothing upon it but a small scythe-shop. A purchase of real estate, including the water power, was made in 1826, and to this purchase additions have from time to time been made, as the interests of the company required. A cotton mill was soon erected and put in operation. Additions have been made to this mill, and three others have been built. For the first nine years no record of products was kept. In 1835 the production was 640,650 yards of print-cloths. This production has been increased until, in 1876, it amounted to 6,328,050 yards, known as "Fruit of the Loom." It is probably



about the same now. The owners of this large and valuable property are "Lewis Dexter, B. B., and R. Knight," all of Rhode Island.

Sutton is one of the best towns in the county for agricultural purposes. The time has been when it was surpassed by no town in the State in the appearance and culture of its farms, in the quality and quantity of its dairy products and in its stock, especially its neat cattle. It has been famed for its fine working cattle and has sometimes sent to the county fair a team of seventy-five or eighty yoke of oxen, which was more than all the other towns combined had on exhibition, and they were such as quite generally to command the highest premium.

Like other rural New England towns, Sutton has produced many men of mark. Our space allows us to make brief mention of only a few of these.

Gen. Rufus Putnam was born in Sutton, April 9, 1738. At the breaking out of the war of 1775 he entered the army as lieutenant-colonel, but was soon promoted to a brigadier-generalship. He did effective service as chief of the engineering department, and was ever treated by Gen. Washington with confidence and respect. The "Ohio Company of Associates," by whom the first settlement of the territory north-west of the Ohio was made, was formed chiefly through his instrumentality. He was one of the directors and the general manager of the affairs of the company. He went out with the pioneers who commenced a settlement where Marietta, Ohio, now stands. He was the leading citizen among the early settlers of Ohio, held many subordinate offices of trust, was one of the three judges of the territory, a member of the convention for the formation of a State Constitution, Surveyor-General of the United States and the first who held that office. In Dr. Hildreth's "Lives of the Early Settlers of Ohio," the leading place is given to Gen. Rufus Putnam. He died in 1821.

Hon. Solomon Sibley was born in Sutton, Oct. 7, 1769. He studied law with William Hastings of Boston, and after the completion of his studies went to Marietta, Ohio; thence to Cincinnati, where he formed a law-partnership with Judge Burnet; removed from Cincinnati to Detroit; served in the first legislative assembly of the North-west Territory; was a delegate to Congress, United States Attorney, Judge of the Supreme Court of Michigan, and Chief Justice. He died April 4, 1846.

Alden March, M. D., was born in Sutton, Sept. 20, 1795. He studied medicine with his brother, Dr. David March; attended medical lectures at Boston; then at Brown University, Providence, where he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He removed to Albany, N. Y.; practised medicine there; was appointed Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Vermont Academy of Medicine; took a leading part in the establishment of the Albany Medical College, and was its first president. He was skilful as a physician, and as a surgeon considered the most eminent in this country. He died June 17, 1869.

James H. Armsby, M. D., was born in Sutton, Dec. 1, 1809; studied medicine with Dr. Alden March of Albany, who was his brother-in-law; graduated at the Vermont Academy of Medicine, and was for a time Professor of Anatomy and Physiology there. After the establishment of the Albany Medical College he resigned his professorship, went to Albany, and gave his entire time to the arrangement of the museum and the manifold details of organization, a work for which he was in a special manner fitted by taste and study. He visited Europe twice and inspected all the leading medical institutions and museums, and brought back with him a choice collection of specimens, with which he enriched the college. The fact that he was made the recipient of many honorary degrees from American colleges and other institutions of learning, shows the high estimation in which he was held. He died Dec. 3, 1875.

Thomas Blanchard was born in Sutton, June 24, 1778, and manifested at an early age a remarkable mechanical genius. His first important invention was a machine for cutting and heading tacks, so perfect in design and construction that no essential improvement has ever been made upon it. He originated the cam-motion and made numerous improvements in machinery already in use; devised a new construction for steamboats designed to move in shallow water and against a rapid current, and a process by which timber of all sizes could be bent to any required angle and still retain its full strength, besides many other useful devices and processes, all bearing the original stamp of his mind. But his grandest achievement was the invention of a machine for turning irregular forms,—a machine capable of a greater variety of applications than any other ever invented. This invention alone would entitle him to a place among the first of the world's great inventors.

Moses L. Morse was born in Sutton, May 19, 1781. Like Blanchard, he showed from childhood a mechanical genius, and was the originator of many useful inventions, among which are the machine for making pins with solid heads, and scales of peculiar construction for weighing coins and other substances hydrostatically.

Gen. George B. Boomer was born in Sutton, July 26, 1832. He went West when quite young, and at the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion was living in the State of Arkansas. At the call for troops, he raised a company among his acquaintances and became their captain. Distinguished for bravery and skill, he was promoted to a brigadier-generalship, and was killed at Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863.

Rev. Alvan Bond, D.D., was born in Sutton, April 27, 1793; educated at Brown University and Andover Theological Seminary; pastor at Sturbridge for twelve years; professor in Bangor Theological Seminary for four years; pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Norwich, Conn., for thirty years. Dr. Bond has contributed many articles of value for magazines and papers and edited a reprint of "Kitto's History of the Bible," &c., &c. He is still living among the people of his last charge.

Rev. Samuel Mellen Whiting was born in Sutton, June 25, 1825; educated at Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., and Newton Theological Seminary; went as a missionary of the American Baptist Missionary Union to Assam, India; labored in that field for ten years; translated large portions of the Old Testament Scriptures from Hebrew into Assamese, and did much, in various ways, to advance missionary work. Returning to this country on account of the health of his wife, he engaged earnestly in pastoral work and in helping forward every good enterprise. He was spoken of as a profound scholar, as possessed of great versatility of talent and successful as pastor and preacher, teacher and translator, editor and financier. He died in New Haven, Conn., Feb. 21, 1878.

Hon. Jonas Sibley was born in Sutton, Nov. 7, 1762, and was a man of prominence and influence. The estimation in which he was held by those who knew him best is shown by the fact that he was made for nineteen years the representative of the town in the State Legislature. He was also State Senator and Representative of the Worcester Congressional District in Congress.

Jonas L. Sibley, son of the above, was born in Sutton, Jan. 4, 1791; graduated at Brown University; studied law with the Hon. Levi Lincoln, and established himself in practice in his native town, which he represented for several years in the Legislature. He was U. S. Marshal of the port of Boston under appointment by Pres. Jackson. In his profession he had the confidence of the community, was eminent as a legal adviser and successful as a practitioner. He died Feb. 1, 1852.

Gen. Caleb Sibley was born in Sutton, April 20, 1806; graduated at West Point, entered the United States army, and continued in the service until his death; was captain, major, colonel and brevet brigadier-general for meritorious service in the late war. Gen. Sibley was much esteemed by his companions in arms, and in every respect worthy of their confidence.

We have mentioned in the foregoing sketches only those who were natives of Sutton, and we might enlarge our list if space would permit. Many who have become adopted citizens of the town are worthy of a place among those who have attained eminence as scholars, divines, physicians, lawyers, mechanics, &c.

The town has also sent out a large number of men of enterprise and worth, from whom have descended those who have attained national fame, among whom may be mentioned the father of Hon. Salmon P. Chase, late Secretary of the Treasury, and Rt. Rev. Philander Chase, late Bishop in the Episcopal Church.



# TEMPLETON.

BY VARANUS P. PARKHURST, ESQ.

## CHAPTER I.

ORIGINAL GRANTS — THE RESULTING TOWNSHIP — NATURAL ASPECTS — MINERALS, CLIMATE, ETC. — FIRST MEETING-HOUSE — EARLY PROGRESS — INCORPORATION — OLD HIGHWAYS — SEPARATION OF PHILLIPSTON.

"I look unto the times of old, but they seem like reflected moon-beams in a distant lake."—*Ossian*.

JUNE 4, 1685, the General Court of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, on the petition of William Barrett and others of Lynn, Reading, Beverly and Hingham, "Judgeth it meet to grant the petitioners a tract of land in the Nipmug Country of eight miles square, for their encouragement and others that were serviceable to the country in the late Indian Warr."

On Saturday, July 1, 1727, the Great and General Court of Massachusetts, on "a petition of Samuel Chandler and Jacob Houghton in behalf of themselves and a great number of other persons shewing that the General Court of the late Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, in the year 1685, did in answer to the petition of divers persons of the towns of Lyn, &c. grant them a tract of land in the Nipmug Country of eight miles square, and for their encouragement and others that were serviceable in the late Indian war, which grant was not pursued to effect and forasmuch as the petitioners were either personally present at the Fort and Fight at Narragansett or descendants of those that were or in the strictest alliance to them, therefore praying that a grant may be made of such vacant land as may serve the petitioners for settlement under such restrictions and limitations as the Court shall judge fit."

The House resolved, that Maj. Thomas Tileston and others be authorized to survey, and lay out the contents of eight miles square, in some of the unappropriated land of the Province. This was afterward changed to two townships of six miles square, and a committee appointed to prepare a list of names of the soldiers of the Narragansett war, and the descendants of those deceased, and report to the General Court. Plans of the two townships were presented and allowed, one on the Souhegan River, the other adjoining Rutland and Lunenburg.

Dec. 20, 1729, a list of the claimants of the land was presented in the House and accepted, and voted that the tracts of land be granted to the persons named in the lists, and that said claimants or grantees meet at Boston, on the first Wednesday of June next ensuing, to choose committees for ordering their affairs.

On the 29th December, 1730, Thomas Tileston and others, a committee for the officers and soldiers of the Narraganset war, presented a petition showing that the number of said soldiers, and the legal representatives of those deceased, was so great that the grant of the Court already made them, will make so small a portion to each family as will be of little or no benefit to them, and praying that the grant be enlarged, and further time allowed to persons to put in their claims.

The time was extended, and the House voted that such further grant of land be made to the petitioners, as that each one hundred and twenty persons whose claims shall be allowed by this Court may be allowed a township of the contents of six miles square.

The Governor and Council not concurring with the House in the extension of the grant, the House of Representatives sent a message to the council, Jan. 18, 1731-2, "in order to promote good understanding," relating that they had granted a township of six miles square to each one hundred and twenty persons in answer to the petition of Thomas Tileston and others.

"One great reason is that there was a proclamation made to the army in the name of the Government (as living evidences very fully testify) when they were mustered on Dedham plain, where they begun the march, that if they played the man, took the Fort, and drove the enemy out of the Narraganset Country, which was their great seat, that they should have a gratuity in land besides their wages."

Additional lists were brought in, and April 26, 1733, it was shown that there were eight hundred and forty persons entered, officers and soldiers, and the House ordered that the prayer be granted, and that Maj. Chandler, Mr. Edward Shore, Col. Thomas Tileston, Mr. John Hobson and Mr. Samuel Chandler, or any three of them, be a committee to lay out five more tracts of land for townships of six miles square, in some of the unappropriated lands of the Province, and that the grantees meet, within two months, to make choice of committees respectively, to regulate each propriety or township, which is to be held and enjoyed by one hundred and twenty of the grantees, each in equal proportion, who shall pass such rules and orders as shall effectually oblige them to settle sixty families, at least, within said township, with a learned Orthodox minister, within the space of seven years from the date of the grant. June 6, 1733, the grantees met and chose committees.

Oct. 29, 1733, the grantees of the Narraganset Society, No. 6, of which Mr. Samuel Chandler of Concord had been chosen committee, met at Jonathan Ball's tavern, in Concord, and chose a committee to lay out a township on the

back of Rutland, "if the land there be acomodable for a township," and adjourned to December 3, when the committee reported, and the grantees voted that they will accept it.

A plat of the survey of Jonas Houghton was returned to the General Court in December, 1733, and in the following February accepted by the Court. Evident mistakes having been made in copying Mr. Houghton's return into the records of the Court, the following is a copy of the return itself on file in Vol. 2, plan 223, Ancient Plans, &c. :—

"Tuesday, Feb. 12, 1733, laid out the township number six (for 120 of the Narragansett soldiers) which bounds southwesterly on the township laid out to the volunteers of Capt. Lovell and Capt. White, southeasterly mostly on Rutland and part on the Narragansett township No. 2 by Wachusett, northeasterly partly on said township and partly on unappropriated land and northwesterly partly on the province land and partly on province town laid out on Miller's River.

"It begins at Rutland northerly corner runs north thirty nine degrees west by the needle three hundred and ten perch to a hemlock, thence east eighteen degrees north three hundred and forty perch to a white pine, from thence north thirty four degrees west seventeen hundred and ten rods, from thence west thirty nine degrees south twelve hundred and eighty perch (to the said province town), from thence south three hundred and ninety perch to a white pine, from thence west eight hundred and sixty perch to a beach tree, the northerly corner of said volunteer's township, from thence south thirty four degrees east eighteen hundred and twenty four perch to a heap of stones in Rutland line, from thence east thirty degrees north to where it began, nineteen hundred perch, in which lines are contained 23440 acres viz. 23040 for the contents of six miles square, 300 acres for the Mine Farm, so called, and 100 acres for a pond that is in it. Plan drawn to scale of 220 rds. to an inch.

"Surveyed by JONAS HOUGHTON.

"In the House of Representatives, read, and ordered that the plat be accepted, and that the lands set forth and described in the within plat of Narragansett township No. 6 (exclusive of the Mine Farm so called) be and hereby are confirmed to a hundred and twenty of the original grantees, their heirs and assigns,—viz., that society of them of which Mr. Samuel Chandler and others were appointed a committee for regulating the said township No. 6 (so called) at a general meeting of the grantees the 6th of June, as by their votes and orders may appear,—provided the plat contains no more than the quantity of land within mentioned and does not interfere with any former grants.

"In Council read and concurred.

"Consented to J. BELCHER.

"(Governor)"

April 18, 1734, a committee reported to the House, "That in the case of the death of the original grantee, the right shall belong to one only, and the land shall be held by the oldest male descendant if alive, and if not, by the oldest female descendant if they please, paying to the other descendants or heirs such proportionate parts of ten pounds (at which we judge a right ought to be valued), as such descendant or heir would be entitled to in the land, if such land



descended according to the law of the Province for the settlement of intestate estates, and also what charges the holder has been to."

A meeting of the grantees of No. 6, was called April 1, 1734, when they chose Jonas Houghton, John Longley, and Joseph Fassett, a committee to "finish the lines of said township, and burn the woods from time to time till further orders," then voted a tax of ten shillings for each proprietor and adjourned till October 30, when they voted that one hundred and twenty-three forty-acre lots be laid out in the best of the upland, and chose a committee to do it. The committee were also authorized to order ways, and where the meeting-house, and where the public lots shall be, and to order land for a burying-place, and training-place, and for other public uses, according to their discretion.

The township in which they were to lay out their house-lots, lay in the northerly part of the county, twenty-six miles from Worcester, and a little to the westward of a line drawn from Wachusett to Monadnock. It is among the highlands, between the valley of the Connecticut and the Atlantic. The leading feature in its topography is the broad valley of the Burnshirt and Meeting-house, or Trout Brook, extending in a northerly and southerly direction through the central part of the township. The head waters of these two streams are in this valley, within a few rods of each other, about two and a half miles from the southerly side of the town, the Burnshirt flowing south to the Ware River near Coldbrook, Trout Brook flowing north to Otter River in the northerly part of the township.

The land rises to the east of this valley, forming a broad and comparatively level plateau, sloping to the north, on which is situated Templeton Centre. It rises quite abruptly to the west, extending into Phillipston in broken ridges, culminating in Prospect Hill at the extreme north-west, which affords a beautiful and extensive view of the surrounding country.

Otter River rises in the southerly part of the town, flowing south through a corner of Hubbardston, then turning northerly near the eastern boundary of the town, and north-westerly into Winchendon, furnishing extensive water-power at Otter River village and Baldwinsville.

Mill Brook flows through the south-eastern part of the town, furnishing water-power at East Templeton.

Jackson, or Phillipston Pond, lies among the highlands west of the Burnshirt, and furnishes its principal head and a large water-power.

Wine Brook and Beaver Brook also rise in Phillipston.

The geological basis of the town is a coarse, ferruginous gneiss, with a strike N. 30° E., and a dip of 10° to 30° W. Mine Hill in the east part of the town is a sharp, rocky ridge, extending about two miles into the town, and containing large quantities of sulphuret of iron. Great riches were evidently expected at one time from the working of the pyrite from Mine Hill, but such hopes must have proved delusive, as they uniformly do.

In 1730 a grant of three hundred acres of land was made by the Great and General Court to Capt. Andrew Robinson of Gloucester, for services rendered in the war with the French and Indians. This grant was transferred to John Keyes of Shrewsbury, and Edward Goddard of Framingham, and by them conveyed to Gershom Keyes of Shrewsbury and John Hubbard, of Worcester, for two hundred pounds, Goddard reserving one fortieth part. Keyes and Hubbard sold out shares of one fortieth each to various parties in Rutland, Shrewsbury, and other places, and gave one share to Gov. Belcher in consideration of favors received. The deed to Gov. Belcher conveys to him "one fortieth part of the Mine Farm, with all the woods, underwoods, water-courses, mines, minerals, precious stones, &c., as well, lead, copper, tin, &c., as all Royal Mines, silver and gold, except what part thereof is excepted in the Royal Charters, &c."

In 1824 a "cave" was discovered in this hill, which is an adit cut in horizontally from the eastern face of a precipice, about sixty feet below the top of the hill, to a distance of fifty-seven and a half feet. No definite knowledge has appeared of the authors of this "cave."

Some bog-iron ore is found in Mine Hill, though not enough to be of value. In the north-western part of the town, on Otter River, are beds of yellow ochre, and it is met with in other parts, but no "Royal Mines" are known to exist.

The climate is generally cool and pleasant in summer, but severe in winter, and plants that are hardy a few miles distant fail to survive the winter here, or maintain only a feeble existence.

The soil is quite variable; many good fields and farms are found on the hills, much is thin, rocky, and valuable only for the trees it bears.

On the 24th of June, 1735, they drew their "house lots." No. 45, drawn by Jacob Houghton, was selected as the meeting-house lot; this lay just to the south of the common, extending sixty-six rods southerly, and one hundred rods east, 30° north, though they afterwards decided to erect the meeting-house on the 44th lot, drawn by James Patterson. The first settled minister's lot was No. 46, lying just south of No. 45. The school lot was No. 36, and located at the southerly part of the town, with Cook Pond within its limits. The ministerial lot, No. 92, was in the easterly part of the town.

The next thing of importance to the proprietors was a saw-mill, and at their meeting of June 26th, they chose a committee of Col. Prescott and four others "to agree with any proprietor or person that will erect a mill or mills in said township." They also chose a committee to run the line adjoining Narraganset No. 2. Upon examination, it was found that part of No. 2 was included in the plat of No. 6, estimated at 400 acres. The Court, on the 26th of January, 1736-7, ordered: that 400 acres of the Province land, lying on the northerly side of the township, be granted for what was taken from them in this way, and that a plat of it be returned within twelve months. According to the original plan of the township, the north-easterly corner was at or near the



corner now existing near the Beaman Mill, adjoining Winchendon, and from thence the town line ran south-westerly, crossing Otter River near the mouth of Trout Brook, and thence over Church Hill to the north-west corner of the town, which was westerly of Mr. Lewis Brigham's house and a little south of "Lamb City." It appears that they secured much more than 400 acres in some way not apparent by the records, as there are upwards of 3,000 acres north of that line, now within the town.

A meeting was held Sept. 16, 1742, and adjourned to meet in the township, Oct. 6, 1742, when the first meeting was held in the township on "Ridge Hill," near where the Partridgeville school-house now stands. This was the last meeting attended by Samuel Chandler, who had led the society from the first; he died soon after. A contract was made with Samuel Sheldon, of Billerica, to build a saw-mill; but he failed to do it, and another was made with Lieut. James Simonds and Reuben and Oliver Richardson, who built a saw-mill on 1743, in lot 91, in the east village, where the mill now occupied by A. S. Hodge stands.

March 27, 1744, a meeting was held, and votes passed for clearing roads, and bought some hay. Hostilities commenced soon after, and the mill was burned down by the Indians. No meeting of the proprietors was held again until Sept. 20, 1749, when they met on "Ridge Hill," "and requested the owners to rectify the mill"; and, on an article to see if they will sell the hay they have on hand, the record says: "Nothing done about the hay, for there was no hay to dispose of."

May 9, 1750, voted to lay out the meadow-lots, and that four acres be the standard.

May 8, 1751, voted to build a meeting-house, 50 feet by 60, and chose a committee: Dr. Jonathan Osgood, Deacon Christopher Page, Benj. Houghton, Thomas Ross, and Abijah Willard. Voted sixteen shillings lawful money on each right, towards building the meeting-house. Chose committee to move settlers to bring forward their settlement, according to the injunction of the General Court.

Sept 11, 1751, the second division was ordered, seventy acres to be the standard for each proprietor. It is probable that the first family settled in the town in the spring of 1751. A reward had been offered to the first sixty, and then to the first ten families who should build a house and settle. The first payment for settling was made Sept. 11, 1751, to Elias Wilder, and in October to Chas. Baker, who for many years was one of the most influential and useful men in the town, and died in 1813, aged eighty-five.

May 13, 1752, John Whitcomb, Hezekiah Whitcomb, Ebenezer Wright, were chosen a committee to lay out roads throughout the township.

May 16, 1753, a committee was chosen to inspect the saw-mill, and it was voted that the meeting-house committee provide a place and provisions for raising the meeting-house, which was done July 3. Voted to build a corn-mill,



and chose a committee for that purpose. Voted to lay out the third division, forty acres being the standard.

Jan. 1, 1755, Mr. Thomas Sawyer, of Bolton, received £24 13s. 6d. in full for building the corn-mill. The opinion has long prevailed that this mill was built on Otter River, but the evidence in regard to it seems to be that it was located at "Goulding Village," in what is now Phillipston, near "Jackson Pond," where the foundation still stands.

Dec. 10, 1755, Rev. Daniel Pond was ordained the first minister.

The committee to lay roads reported Dec. 15, 1754, a road three rods wide, from the common, northerly, to John Brooks' lot, No. 90; this was the road towards Caldwellville, and extended about to the Johnson place, now occupied by John Patterson. March 19, 1759, this road was laid about 200 rods further, and March 25, 1761, extended across Otter River to a pine tree.

Mr. Pond and the proprietors did not agree, and he was dismissed Sept. 2, 1759, and Rev. Ebenezer Sparhawk ordained Nov. 18, 1761, and remained the pastor until his death.

Hitherto the affairs of the township or plantation had been conducted entirely by the grantees or proprietors, in many respects, the same as towns; but the plantation, being "competently filled with inhabitants," was incorporated July 22, 1761, as a town.

The following is a copy of the act of incorporation:—

Anno regni } tertii }	[L. s.]	{ Regis Georgii Secundo
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*An Act for incorporating the Plantation called Narragansett No. 6 in the County of Worcester, into a Town by the Name of Templetown:*

*Whereas,* The plantation of Narragansett No. 6, lying in the county of Worcester, is competently filled with inhabitants who labor under great difficulties and inconveniences by means of their not being a town: therefore,—

*Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and House of Representatives,* That the said plantation, commonly called and known by the name of Narragansett No. 6, bounding westerly on Poquioge, southerly on Rutland District and Petersham, easterly on Westminster, northerly on Ipswich-Canada and Royalshire, be, and hereby is erected into a town by the name of *Templetown*; and that the said town be, and hereby is, invested with all the powers, privileges, and immunities that any of the towns of this province do or may by law enjoy;—

*Provided,* That nothing in this Act shall be understood or construed as in any measure to supersede or make void any grants or assessments already made or agreed on by the proprietors of said place in time past, but that the same shall remain and be as effectual as if this Act had not been made.

*And be it further enacted,* That Joshua Willard, Esq., be, and hereby is, empowered to issue his warrants to some principal inhabitant of the said plantation, requiring him, in his majesty's name, to warn and notify the said inhabitants qualified to vote in town affairs, that they meet together at such time and place in said plantation as by said

warrant shall be appointed, to choose such officers as may be necessary to manage the affairs of said town; and the inhabitants, being so met, shall be, and hereby are, empowered to choose said officers accordingly.

March 6, 1762, — By the Governor, I consent to the enacting of this Bill.

FRA. BERNARD.

Narraganset No. 6 now became a town; Temple Town, as it was frequently written for several years; the origin of the name is not known. The first town meeting was held May 4, 1762, and the town officers elected: Abel Hunt, town clerk; Zaccheus Barrett, town treasurer; Jason Whitney, Joshua Hyde, Abner Newton, Selectmen. The proprietors still continued to manage a part of the affairs, the undivided land was still theirs, and both town and proprietors voted about the meeting-house and roads. The distinction between propriety and town did not appear clear in their minds. The proprietors had passed votes and offered rewards to induce settlers to come, and the selectmen were busy making warrants to "warn out" nearly every one who came into town. Mr. Joshua Church, who bought the three lots, Nos. 42, 43, 44, and Susannah Martin, the minister's "maid" servant, were alike notified and warned to depart forthwith under the pains and penalties of the law. And the town officers were notified when any one came, thus:—

*"To the Town Clerk, Sir :*

"I would inform you that Abijah Kendall of Lancaster came to work on his land and I took him into my house on ye 4th dy of October, 1765.

"This from yours,

"ABEL HUNT.

"TEMPLETON, Nov. 4, 1765."

Sept. 25, 1765, the fourth division of lots was made, twenty acres being the standard, and Oct. 29, 1777, the fifth division, six acres the standard. In 1785, about 900 acres of small lots of land still remained undivided, and it was surveyed and sold at vendue in 1786. The proceeds, after paying the debts, were divided among the holders of the original rights, giving 11s. 6d. to each. About half of the rights were held by Charles Baker and Joshua Wright at this time. Occasional meetings were held until February, 1817, when they voted "to adjourn this meeting to the last Wednesday in May next, at one of the clock in the afternoon, then to meet at Lipha French's." And when "May next" arrives the old heroes of the Fort and Fight, Chandler, Houghton and Longley, who found land here "acomodable for a township," will meet a host of their descendants at Lipha French's, "according to adjournment."

The records of the proprietors are in the archives of the town complete, and a parchment "plat" with the location of the first and most of the second division lots and some of the third, which is evidently the "great plat" made by Jonas Houghton in 1735.



The whole number of acres in the township, according to the surveys of the lots by the proprietors, was 29,222.

While the proprietors were closing out the last of the land of the township, May 3, 1786, they voted that "the land lying near the meeting-house for a burying-place, be granted to the town for that use and purpose forever"; and also voted "that the common land by the meeting-house be granted and appropriated to the town of Templeton for a common for their use and benefit as such to them and their heirs forever." Plans and descriptions of both lots are in the proprietors' records.

The population at the time of its incorporation was about three hundred; in 1765, three hundred and forty-eight. It was mostly located in the southerly and westerly or Phillipston portion of the town; only one or two appear to have located to the north of Otter River, Mr. John Stuart being one between Baldwinsville and Otter River villages. Charles Baker settled lot 81 in the westerly part of Phillipston, afterward occupied by Lory Wilson and now by H. S. Miner; Abner and Abraham Sawyer and James Carruth in the easterly part of Phillipston; Dea. Joshua Wilder in the south on Burnshirt; Capt. Ezekiel Knowlton and Noah Merritt in the south-east part; Joel Fletcher, Timothy Hale, Samuel Osgood, east of Baptist Common; William Oakes near Baldwinsville; Abner Newton, Nathaniel Holman and John Cobleigh near the centre. They were not wealthy; most of them sought homes where their wealth was to be made. They had a meeting-house, but unfinished. They had induced parties to build a saw-mill and corn-mill; their roads were paths by marked trees. All the necessities and conveniences of a civilized community were to be provided, as well as to clear their own lots, build their houses and raise their subsistence. A large part of the land was held by non-residents.

The next year, 1763, Nathaniel Holman and Charles Baker, agents of the town, presented a petition to the General Court, setting forth their inability in their infant state to defray the necessary charges of the town, pay their minister's salary, and finish the meeting-house, and praying for a tax of one penny half-penny on each acre of land for five years successively, for those purposes. The Court granted a tax of one penny for two years. In 1764, Charles Baker petitioned the General Court in behalf of the selectmen to legalize the actions of the town officers, as at the last March meeting there was no justice of the peace in the town, and the old clerk had sworn the newly elected clerk, and he the other town officers, and doubts had arisen in respect to their legality. The Court ordered that the power and proceedings of the *assessors* be good and valid.

The town voted to "seat the meeting-house by the last valuation," and that "the people move out of the seats after divine service according to the dignity of the seats, one seat at a time."

In 1763 a bridge was built over Otter River at Baldwinsville, by Noah Merritt, and in 1762 or 1763 it seems a corn and saw mill were built on Otter River,



where Messrs. Thompson, Perley & Waite's chair factory now stands, by Thomas Sawyer of Bolton, the man who built at "Jackson Pond," and his son, Thomas, of Templeton.

The town was divided into two sides or squadrons, the east and west, by the Burnshirt and Trout Brook, and warrants for meetings were made in duplicate to constables, each to warn his side, and in 1764 voted that it be divided in the same manner for schools, which undoubtedly laid the foundation for a division of the town.

A great many roads were laid out. During the first ten years the amount of money raised for roads was £783; for schools, £201; for town charges, £135; and in nearly the same proportions for many years afterwards.

The west part of the town was much inconvenienced by their distance from meeting. The meeting-house was not located in the centre of the town, but on a spot that naturally offered the best situation to the proprietors as they entered the town from the east, following up the Nashua River and its branches to Westminster, and thence through what is now the southerly part of Gardner, by Mr. A. Bancroft's pail-factory, across Otter River by the "pole bridge" about one hundred rods above the road now leading to the pail-factory; thence through Partridgeville over Ladder Hill, to the west edge of the ridge where it slopes rapidly to the valley of Trout Brook; and the location of a meeting-house in a valley would not have been "orthodox" in those days, but an indignity to the most high hills. The minister was permitted to preach in the west part of the town three or four times during the winter for some years if he chose. In 1771 a warm contest appears to have taken place at a town meeting. Motions were made to set off the west part, to build a meeting-house in the west part, then to move the meeting-house into the centre, but all passed in the negative; but the town voted £6 13s. 4d. to provide preaching in the west part for that year. It was an "irrepressible conflict."

Jan. 23, 1773, a petition was presented to the General Court representing: "That the town of Templeton is so situated that one house for public worship will in no wise serve the whole; that the west part of said Templeton is now considerably filled with inhabitants, and consists of the first settlers in said Templeton, and praying for a separate precinct, to be composed of the west part of Templeton and the east part of Athol." The petition was dismissed; but the people were in earnest, and, the following June, renewed their petition and asked for a committee to repair to Templeton and Athol, which was granted, and the committee, after an examination of the situation, reported in favor of the petition. Feb. 16, 1774, a part of Templeton, with a part of Athol, was incorporated as a precinct. The dividing-line ran thus: "Beginning at the Hubbardston line, where Burnshirt stream runs out of Templeton; thence running up said stream to a maple tree, being the southerly corner of Second Division, lot No. 47; thence running north 30° west to New Brook, so called; thence down the brook to Royalston line; thence west to Athol line, being the

north-west corner of Templeton." Several persons living near the dividing-line were allowed to elect which precinct they would belong to, and their election has made the dividing-line between Templeton and Phillipston, which is the same, quite irregular. Oct. 20, 1786, the second precinct was incorporated into a town by the name of Gerry, and the legal connection of the people of the two parts was separated, yet in many respects they have remained one people.

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## CHAPTER II.

THE OPENING REVOLUTION — ACTION OF THE TOWN — ALARM MEN — FINANCIAL PRESSURE AFTER PEACE — SECOND WAR WITH ENGLAND — BEGINNING OF MANUFACTURES — CHAIR BUSINESS — WATER-POWER — RAILROADS — CHURCH HISTORY — VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS — SCHOOLS — LIBRARIES — MILITARY RECORD — WAR OF SECESSION — ORGANIZATIONS.

THE Revolutionary conflict broke upon the people while they were clearing their fields and preparing their homes. A town meeting was held Dec. 31, 1772, "to lay before the Town the Proceedings of the Town of Boston with regard to our Charter Rights and liberties," &c., and at "A very full Meeting held that day, after reading a Pamphlet, it was put to Vote whether the Town of Boston has stated our Charter Rights with the Infringements on them in a proper light, — and it Passed in the Affirmative by a very Great Majority, — not one Dissenter."

A committee of correspondence was chosen and continued during the war. In 1774 the town chose Jonathan Baldwin to represent them in the General Court to be held at Salem. Esquire Baldwin was an energetic, public-spirited man, who came from Spencer about 1767 or 1768 and bought largely of land where the village of Baldwinsville now stands, bearing his name. He owned the mills there that had been erected by the Sawyers, and represented the town several times.

In 1774 the town chose a committee to provide provisions for our soldiers in case they should be called to go out to battle. It seems that provisions were provided, for May 1, 1776, the General Court granted £18 9s. 6d. to the selectmen of Templeton in full for their account for provisions supplied the army.

At a town meeting Sept. 15, 1774, a committee was chosen "to wait on John Locke to see if he would oblige the town with a copy of his confession which he did."

John Locke seems to have given offence by the expression of Toryish opinions and feelings; and having sent in his confession, it was entered on the records by the enraged people. Several others also were called on for confes-

sions, which were furnished, but soon after an article was in the warrant "to see if the town will adhere to the *law* in the conduct of the meetings," and it passed in the affirmative. July 30, 1776, it was voted to give up the written confessions.

"This Roll contains the travel & service of Capt. Ezekiel Knowlton and the militia Men under his Command in Col. Nathan Sparhawk's Regiment, who in consequence of an Alarm on the 19th day of April last marched from Templeton in the County of Worcester to Cambridge for the defence of this Colony against the Ministerial Troops. Capt. Ezek Knowlton, 1st Lieut. Silas Cutler, Sergs. Phin Wright, Sam. Fisk, Paul Eager; Corps. Eben. Goodridge, Jona. Horton, Seth Dean; Privs. James Carruth, Thomas Howard, Jos. Norton, Noah Merritt, Sam. Mixer, Joseph Rice, Enoch Sawtell, Hervey Sawtell, Elias Sawyer, Silas Stone, Benj. Wesson, Jon. Wheeler, Israel Whitcomb, Jona. Wittington, Eben. Wright, Abia Ball, Jona. Holman, Silas Church, John Atwood, Jr., Jonas Bruce, David Cranson, Robert Holden. Jona. Jackson, Benj. Jones, Wm. Linckun, Edin Stone, Ezra Whitcomb, Sam. Willington,

"Jany. 4, 1776. Signed & certified by Capt. Knowlton. In Council, March 25th, 1776.

"Read and payment ordered.

"£45 5s. 9d."

— (*Military Records at State House*), "Lexington Alarm," Vol. 12, 158.

The following from the "Court Records" will illustrate the condition of the men: "The General Court on petition of Ebenezer Wright that he engaged in the public service upon the alarm in the month of April 1775, and actually marched to Cambridge with a considerable number of his fellow-soldiers from Templeton, who refused to enlist and further engage in the service unless they could be provided with some articles of clothing and blankets of which they were destitute, and accordingly being desired by the officers as well as by the soldiers themselves, your petitioner left Cambridge and spent eight days, with great diligence, in procuring and carrying to said soldiers, said necessary clothing and blankets, and your petitioner thinks himself justly entitled, on account of the expense of his own time, of his horse, and necessary charges to the reward of £8."

The House granted £2 8s.

The town afterwards voted to furnish each soldier with a blanket.

In 1775 Capt. Joel Fletcher commanded a company in Col. Doolittle's regiment. James Bigelow enlisted April 26 from Templeton. Capt. Jonathan Holman also commanded a company in Col. Doolittle's regiment, and John Atwood and John Atwood, Jr., enlisted from Templeton, June 3d.

On Capt. E. Knowlton's muster-roll for Nov. 30, 1776, three months' service, are the following names from Templeton: Asaph Brown, Joseph Knowlton, Oliver Wyman, Daniel Davis, Ephraim Shattuck, William Hudson. In 1779 these men were in the service: Salmon Whitney, Timothy Metcalf, John Piper, John Adams, George Farrow, Bannister Maynard. In 1780, Edward Kelly. Capt. John Richardson also commanded a company some time during the war.



Capt. *Jack* (as he was familiarly called), the father of Capt. John Richardson, was an enthusiastic military officer, and delighted in attending musters. He lived to become so feeble that his children, with whom he lived, thought it imprudent for him to go to a muster one fall, and, in order to prevent his going, hid the reins to the harness, and his hat. Habits of military discipline did not allow him to be diverted by such trifles. He hitched the old horse in the wagon and started, reinless and hatless, for the common. Seeing his determination, the reins and hat were brought out, and he was driven up by an attendant. Coming on to the common, as the troops were drawn up in line, the commanding officer recognized him; arms were presented, and the old hero rode down the line amid the cheers of the people.

The depreciation of the currency, towards the close of the war, led to conventions and towns "stating prices," and Mr. Thomas White was chosen to attend a convention at Concord in October, 1779. The town, as usual, expressed their opinion, for his guidance, — "that salt and rum were too high, in proportion to mutton, veal and lamb, which this town are of the opinion are too low; for although four shillings a pound seems to make a sound, what is it? Why, it is cheaper than it was even when our currency was looked upon equal to silver." The town afterwards "stated" some prices: Laborers in husbandry, £2 14s. per day; women's labor, £2 per week; a good common dinner, 14s.; New England flip (or toddy) 15s. per mug; Indian corn, £3 12s. per bushel.

In an inventory of Abner Sawyer's estate, appraised Dec. 25, 1779, a yoke of oxen were £300; six cows, £600; one pair of boots, £30; one suit of blue clothes, £162.

In 1786 the town petitioned the General Court to grant relief by making all property a tender, in payment of executions; also, for a bank of paper money.

In 1785 a portion of the town, lying on the east side of Otter River, was taken off on the incorporation of Gardner. The town consented to the division, and 587 acres, by the proprietors' survey, was taken off. Probably there were no inhabitants on this tract at the time, though it is said that the first person that lived in Templeton was a trapper, who lived on the east side of Otter River, near the house formerly occupied by Lafayette Coleman.

Capt. John Richardson and Mr. Joel Grout were delegates to the Convention of 1779-80; Capt. Joel Fletcher to the Convention of 1787, to ratify the Constitution of the United States. Capt. Ezekiel Knowlton, Col. Silas Cutler, and Capt. Leonard Stone were leading men, and, with those above mentioned, represented the town on important occasions during the remainder of the century.

In 1799 the fifth Massachusetts Turnpike Corporation was incorporated by the Legislature — its road running through this town, which added much to its convenience and business.

The new century began with the same pastor of the first parish, but his labors

were soon closed by his death, which occurred Nov. 25, 1805, after an illness of a few days, at the age of sixty-seven. Serious differences had, at times, existed between Mr. Sparhawk and many of his people; but their mutual good sense overcame them all. The parish and town had been the same up to about this time, when the connection was severed in 1806. The same year the parish selected Rev. Charles Wellington to succeed Mr. Sparhawk, and he was ordained Feb. 25, 1807. Soon a new meeting-house was built near the old one, — a large and fine church, — which was dedicated Sept. 9, 1811, and a bell placed in the tower, to call the people together. Musical instruments were introduced in church, by vote of the town, in 1804.

The second war with Great Britain was not popular with the people of the town, and a memorial to the President was voted, against it. Several persons were in the army, during the war, from this town; for instance: Herman Partridge, Thomas Richardson, and James Crocker, for some time.

Little had been done in manufactures beyond the supply of the wants of the people. Mr. Silas Sawyer had a grist-mill at the south part of the town, below Mr. Wilkinson's, and a saw-mill at the same place. Eden Baldwin had a grist-mill and saw-mill at Baldwinsville. At the east part of the town the saw and grist mill of John Simonds had gone to decay; an oil-mill, where C. N. Johnson's toy and wagon factory now is, was also in ruins. About this time a Mr. Cambridge had a clothier's factory at Otter River Village, and soon after Mr. Nathan Smith had some machinery for carding at the same place. These were the manufacturing establishments of the town, except the hand-loom and wheel.

In 1813 Joel Fales came from Walpole, bought out the mills of John Simonds, repaired the saw and grist mill, and commenced business. He soon put another run of stones in the grist-mill. Mr. Fales and Artemas Brown bought the Brooks mill at the Flood-wood, and set it up opposite the house of Mrs. George Sawyer, afterwards owned by Moses M. Gage and George Sawyer. Soon after, Mr. Fales erected another shop near the spot now occupied by J. G. Fales & Co., and commenced the manufacture of scythes, which was carried on several years. He also had a small furnace, and did some casting of wagon boxes and other small articles. He had a trip-hammer, and engaged in the manufacture of hoes, which was carried on quite extensively, in company with his son, Otis P. Fales. His son Joel G. began to turn chair-stock in the saw-mill. Mr. Fales' enterprising character gave a name to the village, which it retained for a long time.

It was about 1820 that the chair business was begun in this town. Mr. Newell Day had a shop on the west side of the reservoir pond, opposite the house of Mr. Isaac Lufkin, where he made wood-seat chairs. Peter Pierce made chairs south of the meeting-house, on Pierce's Brook, near where Mr. Leander Leland formerly manufactured shoe-pegs and measures, and the Leland cider-mill now stands. Stephen Osborne and a Mr. Kilburn made



chairs at Baldwinsville; Geo. W. and Augustus Jones at Partridgeville. There were from twelve to fifteen men engaged in the chair-business, including the painters. The posts, stretchers, and spindles, for the chairs, were split out of logs, then shaved into octagonal form, before being put in the turning-lathe. The farmers busied themselves in the winter season in getting out this stock for the turners. In 1825 Mr. Jonathan Whitney bought out Newell Day, and carried on the business for many years, and Day went to Otter River, where he made chairs for some time. A small turning-shop stood on the reservoir dam at East Templeton at the time. About 1827 or 1828 Mr. Whitney began to make flag-seat chairs, and they became popular. The chairs were finished, and sent about the country to dealers, by the manufacturers. Since that time cane or rattan has been introduced in the seating of chairs, and the business has become the leading pursuit of the people of the town.

The principal water-power is located near the boundary-lines of the town. At Baldwinsville, to the north part, is the largest water-power in town. On Otter River, at Jonesville, or Otter River Village, about two miles above, is another extensive water-power. The next in extent is on Mill Brook, at Falesville, or East Templeton, in the east part. Trout Brook furnishes a considerable water-power one mile west of the Common, and Burnshirt, at the southerly part of the town. At Baldwinsville the grist and saw-mill of Capt. Baldwin gave place to the large lumber-factory of Col. Gilman Day and E. Sawyer, and that to the extensive chair manufactory of Thompson, Perley & Waite, who also occupy another mill-site below. Smith, Day & Co. and L. Greenwood & Co., also manufacture chairs at Baldwinsville. At East Templeton Fales & Higly bought the saw-mill of Joel Fales, and made chairs, and were succeeded by Parker, Jennison & Co., and Parker, Sawyer & Co., W. Greenwood & Co., and R. McLean & Co., and at present the business is carried on by V. P. Parkhurst, J. G. Fales & Co., A. S. Hodge, and the East Templeton Chair Company. The manufacture of pails and tubs was formerly carried on by Capt. Joseph Davis at Baldwinsville, and at East Templeton by T. T. Greenwood & Sargeant. Furniture was manufactured by Dea. Benj. Hawkes on Trout Brook, and now, at the same place, by Bourn & Brooks, at East Templeton by T. T. Greenwood, and at Baldwinsville by E. Sawyer & Co.

The manufacture of children's carts, wagons, &c., was begun by C. N. Johnson in East Templeton in 1858, and is now carried on extensively by him at East Templeton, and at Baldwinsville by Baker & Wilson. H. & J. M. Partridge made chairs for many years at Partridgeville, now occupied by V. P. Parkhurst. A large woolen-mill was erected at Otter River in 1823 by Samuel Dadman, William Graham and Dr. Howe. This was burned, and a stock company formed, in which Dadman, Graham, Col. A. Lee, and Charles Church were large stockholders; but it was sold out after some years, and the business continued by the Jones Manufacturing Company. It has been run by several parties since 1840, at intervals, but has been vacant several years.



The Otter River Company erected a woolen-mill on the site of the Cooper Sawyer saw-mill, and have done a large business in the manufacture of horse-blankets. At Baldwinsville, Small, Gould & Co. began the manufacture of sheathing and roofing-papers in 1875, and continue to manufacture it largely. W. L. Merritt manufactures window-shades. For several years, Lee & Stearns did a large business at pressing palm-leaf hats, now discontinued. A. Fessenden & Co. manufactured friction-matches. Saw-mills have been erected in many places where there are none now. Two saw and one shingle mill stood on Beaver Brook thirty years ago, two on Trout Brook, White or Sawyer's on Burnshirt, George W. Jones's on Mill Brook, and Underwood's on a little stream north of East Templeton; these have been allowed to go to decay for lack of business. The ancient forests have been transformed into houses and furniture, and now the supply of hard-wood lumber for the chair-factories comes mostly from Vermont. The rapid growth of white pine seems to supply the furniture-factories, and large quantities have been made into pails and tubs. A hemlock-tree that is on the corner of Gardner and Winchendon streets, near the foundry, was a line-tree in 1789, and mentioned by the selectmen in their certificate of the perambulation of the town lines of Templeton and Winchendon. It is now a vigorous, healthy tree, twenty inches in diameter; it must be over one hundred years old. Another hemlock stands easterly of Ladder Hill, that was the corner of lot 96 when laid out in 1735. About 1830 Mr. Thomas Parker built a foundry at Jonesville, afterwards occupied by Otis Warner, Lord & Walker, and for several years past by Lord & Stone, large manufacturers of stoves and castings.

In 1825 John Boynton began the manufacture of tin-ware at Templeton Centre, and continued for many years, when he became associated with Mr. David Whitecomb for several years. Mr. Boynton was succeeded by Col. Henry Smith, and subsequently Mr. Whitecomb by William Smith. The business was continued by Smith & Jaquith until 1877, when Mr. Smith retired, and the business was removed to Gardner, and carried on by Jaquith & Richardson.

Mr. Boynton became a man of considerable wealth, and was the founder of the Free Institute of Industrial Science at Worcester.

Mr. Jonathan Bowker and Merrick Ainsworth manufactured boots extensively at Brooks Village for many years, and W. L. Bowker until his factory was burned in 1862. Mr. F. T. Lamb has been a manufacturer of boots in town for about thirty years. Maynard & Fisk have manufactured carriages for a long time on the common. Moses Chamberlain began the harness business in 1827, and still makes them. Potash was made by Aaron Jones about the beginning of the century, and afterwards by Lipha French. About 1804 William Jennison began the manufacture of hats just east of the common, and the business was continued at the same place by several persons, and lastly by J. M. Waite, who removed to Amherst in 1872.

Tanning was carried on many years by Benjamin Reed, west of the common, and afterward by Israel Sibley at the same place, and by Mr. Newton at Baldwinsville, and by Mr. Bush and Daniel Swan at East Templeton, and afterwards by Warren Simonds and a Mr. Putnam. No tanning is done in town now. In 1879 there are in the town nine saw-mills, two grist-mills, nine chair factories, three furniture factories, two toy and wagon shops, two woolen and one window-shade factory, one machine-shop, one foundry, and one paper-mill.

Roads were a necessity to the early settlers, and the improved methods of conveyance have received much attention from the people. A committee was chosen in 1825 to assist in the survey of a canal ordered by the State. In 1835 a railroad through the town was agitated. The town acted in favor of the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad. After it was chartered, an attempt was made to locate it through Winchendon instead of Templeton, and a committee of Col. Artemas Lee, Capt. Joseph Davis, Joseph Mason, Col. Gilman Day, and Col. Leonard Stone was chosen by the town, and money was appropriated to secure the location through this town, which was successful. Several other projects have been formed at times. April 9, 1870, the town voted to subscribe \$50,000 to the stock in Ware River Railroad, one-half to be taken in first-mortgage bonds. The contractors failed, the stock became worthless, and the bonds were sold in 1873 at half price, or for \$12,500.

The first parish continued under Mr. Wellington until failing health and strength rendered assistance necessary, which was supplied from time to time by different persons for several years until Jan. 13, 1847, when Rev. Edwin G. Adams was ordained as colleague. Sunday, Dec. 9, 1855, Mr. Adams preached an historical discourse in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the formation of the First Congregational Church. Rev. Dr. Wellington assisted in the services. This discourse was published in 1857, with an appendix containing a very valuable historical sketch of the church and town. Mr. Wellington continued to be the senior pastor, and attended the services, as he was able, until his death, which occurred Aug. 3, 1861, at the age of eighty-one years, completing almost a century since Mr. Sparhawk was ordained. Thanksgiving Day, 1876, the several societies in town united in one service, and Mr. Adams read the discourse preached by Mr. Sparhawk in 1776, the manuscript having been preserved. Rev. E. G. Adams continued in the pastorate until his death, which occurred May 10, 1877, at the age of fifty-five; and Oct. 31, 1878, Rev. A. C. Nickerson was installed.

The Baptist Meeting-house was moved in 1840 to a spot near Baldwinsville, and again to a central position in the village, where it has been fitted up in a neat and tasty manner with a tower and clock, forming an ornament to the town.

April 11, 1832, the Trinitarian Society was organized, and built their meeting-house at the northerly end of the common in 1833. Rev. Lemuel P. Bates was installed the same year, who remained until 1837. Rev. Lewis Sabin was installed Sept. 21, 1837, and remained until his resignation in 1872, Septem-



ber 24, after a pastorate of thirty-five years. He died June 10, 1873, at the age of sixty-six.

Rev. Charles White was ordained in 1873, and remained about three years, when he resigned. Since that time there has been no settled pastor.

In 1873 another Trinitarian Society was organized at Baldwinsville, and Rev. J. P. Broad ordained, who remained about four years, and there has been no settled pastor since.

A Methodist society was organized in 1843, and built a church in 1844, a little south of the common. Meetings were held only occasionally for several years after 1848, and the church was moved to East Templeton in 1859, and rebuilt, and preaching has been maintained there since.

In 1842 a Universalist society was organized, and met in the town hall. Rev. Gerard Bushnell was the only regular minister the society had. No meetings have been held for several years.

The Second Advent ideas found many believers in 1843, and meetings of that persuasion were held for several years in East Templeton. A church was organized in 1853, with Rev. C. R. Griggs of Westborough, pastor, who preached a part of the time until about 1857; meetings have been held only occasionally since.

In 1854 a Catholic church was built at Otter River, and a society gathered by Rev. Mr. Gibson, who officiated two or three years afterwards on occasional Sundays. For several years, regular services have been held at the church, and a parsonage erected.

There is no record of any schools until after the incorporation of the town. Money was raised for schools in 1763, and always after. The town was divided in 1764 into two squadrons, and a committee to see that each was accommodated with schools, which were kept in private houses, and at length the town built houses. The school divisions were sometimes designated as classes until the district system became established, which continued until abrogated by the Legislature in 1869, when the town took possession of all the district property, appraised at \$11,879.32. The town has always manifested a commendable degree of interest in its schools, and voted what appeared to them a liberal amount of money for their support. In 1855, the town having a sufficient population, established a high school, which was kept two terms each year for several years, then three terms, and for several years past four terms, one in each of the principal villages. With the exception of a single term, the first year, it has been under the charge of Mr. H. F. Lane, whose thorough and skilful methods of teaching have raised the school to a degree of excellence rarely attained.

Some time in the early history of the town a library was established, owned by individuals, called the Templeton Union Library Association. In 1779 the right of Abner Sawyer was appraised at £9. The books were distributed among the shareholders about fifty years ago.



In 1854 a library society was organized in East Templeton, and now has 800 volumes. Village libraries are also found at Baldwinville and Otter River, and all the Sabbath schools of all the religious societies have a similar provision. In accordance with the act of the Legislature of 1843, all the school-districts were furnished with school libraries prepared by the Board of Education, but they have fallen into disuse. In 1854 Dr. George Shattuck of Boston presented the town with five shares in the Boston Athenæum, with the annual assessment paid. The valuable privilege of taking books is allotted by the selectmen each year.

June 1, 1868, David Whitcomb, Esq., of Worcester, gave the town \$4,000, in the name of his old business associate and friend, John Boynton, to establish and maintain a free public library for the use of the inhabitants of said town, to be called the Boynton Library. Its provisions required a portion of the income to be added to the principal until it became \$5,000, and ever to remain at that, the income to be devoted to the purchase of books. The library was opened to the people, August, 1873, and now numbers 2,200 volumes, with ample provision for its increase. It has been largely patronized.

In 1858 an Agricultural Library was established by private subscriptions, and is now incorporated with the Boynton Library.

Military companies existed in town until about 1852. First the "Troop," a cavalry company which was composed of men from Templeton, Winchendon, Royalston, Athol and Phillipston. The company usually met four times a year in the several towns alternately, and numbered about seventy-five men. There were two militia companies, the north and south, for a long time, until in 1814 a rifle company was formed and the south militia disbanded. The rifle company existed until about 1838, and another volunteer company, the Cadets, was formed in 1844, which trained eight or nine years.

Templeton Common was the muster-field for a long time for the troops in this vicinity, and muster-day the gala-day of the year. The quartermaster came the day before, and with a cord and hoe marked out a little furrow on which the line was to be formed, beginning near the hotel at the south end and running along the east side of the common, about six yards from the fence, as far as Dea. Hawkes' house. The troops were formed on this line, exercised in the manual by the officer, broke into column by companies, marched around the common, formed into line again, broke into column for inspection, were inspected, marched in review, formed square, listened to prayers and were dismissed. In the afternoon a mock fight closed the exercises and festivities of the day.

No military organization existed in the town after the disbanding of the Cadets until 1861. On the breaking out of the Rebellion a meeting of citizens was held to express their feelings on the subject. A town meeting was called on the 20th of April, and the town resolved to raise a volunteer military company, and to furnish a uniform to each citizen of Templeton who should enlist,

and in case they were called into service to make up the pay to one dollar per day, and to pay one dollar per day for drilling. A company was formed, with George P. Hawkes as captain. The organization not agreeing with the United States regulations, the company was reorganized under the President's call, and left town, July 19, for camp at Worcester, being joined to the 21st Regiment M. V. M. The company left Worcester for the seat of war August 23, joined the Burnside expedition, and continued in the service until the close of the war. Fifty-three of these men were from Templeton.

In September, 1861, Company I of the 25th Regiment was organized in Templeton; went to camp at Worcester, October 1, where it was mustered into service, October 8, and V. P. Parkhurst elected captain. This company had thirty-four men from Templeton; and left Worcester, October 30, for the seat of war; served in North Carolina and Virginia, and was discharged Oct. 20, 1864.

Company D of the 36th Regiment was organized in Templeton in August, 1862, under Capt. Amos Buffum, who had served six months before. The company contained thirty-one men from Templeton. They went to the field in the fall of 1862, remaining till the campaign of 1864, where Capt. Buffum was killed, June 18, in the assault on Petersburg. The company served until the close of the war.

Company G, 53d Regiment, nine months' troops, commanded by Capt. C. W. Ashley of Gardner and Lieut. C. W. Upham of Templeton, was organized September, 1862; it contained forty-three men, and was in service in Louisiana and in the siege of Port Hudson until the surrender, when it returned home and was mustered out September 12, having suffered the most severe losses. Most of the volunteers from Templeton were in these four companies, a few being scattered through other regiments. The whole number from the town in the army during the Rebellion was one hundred and ninety-three. A full and quite complete record of the service of every man from this town has been made by Rev. Gerard Bushnell, for many years the town clerk, and is in the records of the town.

A lodge of Free and Accepted Masons once existed in the town, but was dissolved in 1843, and its funds, amounting to \$400, given the town in trust, the income to be distributed in charitable purposes. In 1827 Mr. Jehu Richardson left a fund for charitable purposes. In 1854 a large Know-Nothing Lodge was formed. Several Good Templars' and other temperance organizations have been organized from time to time. In 1869, Ericsson Post, No. 109, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized at East Templeton, and still continues. In 1879 a lodge of Knights of Honor was instituted.

The population of the town in 1875 was 2,764. The business and population of the town is principally located in the villages of Templeton, East Templeton, Otter River and Baldwinville, each of which has a post-office.



# U P T O N .

BY HON. VELOROUS TAFT.

## CHAPTER I.

POSITION OF TOWNSHIP—NATURAL FEATURES—LAKES AND STREAMS—INDIANS  
—ORIGIN AND INCORPORATION—EARLY FAMILIES—TOWN DOINGS—RELIGIOUS  
HISTORY—MEETING-HOUSES—PASTORAL RECORD—RECENT DENOMINATIONS.

THE town of Upton is situated in the south-east part of Worcester County. It is bounded on the north by Westborough and Hopkinton, on the east by Hopkinton and Milford, south by Mendon and Northbridge, and west by Grafton. The town contains thirteen thousand and eighty-four acres. The northern, eastern, and central parts are quite hilly and rocky; the south part plain land, with light soil. West River runs nearly the whole length of the town, rising in the east or north-easterly part of Grafton, joining the Centre Brook near the south part of the town, and running through Northbridge and Uxbridge, entering the Blackstone River in the east part of Uxbridge. Warren Brook is quite a stream, rising in the high lands between Westborough and Upton, and joining West River at West Upton. The Centre Brook rises on the extreme north-west point of Hopkinton, and runs through the centre of the town. This brook takes its rise only a few rods from White Hall Pond in Hopkinton, whose waters flow into Concord River. On the east part of the town is a branch of Mill River, taking its rise in Long Pond, a sheet of water in the westerly part of Hopkinton. This stream forms the boundary line between Upton and Milford for quite a distance. The ponds of Upton are Pratt Pond, very beautifully situated in the centre of the town, containing some forty acres, and Zachery Pond, which is much smaller, and is situated in the south-westerly part of the town. West River runs through Zachery Pond.

Prior to the settlement of Upton by the whites, it was occupied by the Nipmuck tribe of Indians. Two of their famous seats overlooked nearly the whole town, one being on Misky Hill, Mendon, and one on George's Hill in Grafton. West River and its branches were a famous resort for fishing for the whole Nipmuck tribe. This town was the great thoroughfare for the Indians in passing from one part of their country to the other. Our older inhabitants remember meeting in



their youth, wandering parties of this tribe as they strolled on their way from their wigwams in Mendon to others in Grafton or that vicinity. Most of these stragglers were of a mixed race, Indian and negro, always happy if their wants for bread and cheese, and particularly cider, were gratified. The leader of one of these strolling bands was Sarah Boston, whose father was a full-blooded negro, and whose mother was pure Indian. The father, as tradition says, was a slave in Boston, and was purchased by a citizen of Grafton. Sarah will long be remembered: tall, more than six feet in height, straight as an arrow, weight over two hundred pounds, with a roundabout jacket fitted on to petticoats, all surmounted by a man's large hat: as she passed she was the observed of all observers, always polite and lady-like when well treated, but woe to the unlucky wight who dared to insult her.

"Bets Hendrick," a full-blooded Indian, was another noted character; small, but straight and lithe as a panther. No one who ever saw her will forget the glance of her sharp gray eye; kind if well treated, but quick to resent an injury. She and Sarah Boston were always together, and frequently with them was "Deb Brown," another full-blooded Indian from Holden. When death put an end to the wanderings of these three, few Indian tramps were afterwards seen in this vicinity. Another noted character, that resided with the Indians, was a full-blooded negro by the name of Simon Robinson. He used to boast that he was a "Guinea Nigger." Tall, well-formed, and a perfect gentleman, always polite, never descending to buffoonery, with a fair education, he always preferred to live in the old cabin, in a sunny spot in the open woods. A few days before he died, he was visited by some of his neighbors, who found him quite ill; and they suggested his removal to the almshouse near by, where he would be well cared for. His reply was characteristic of his race: "No massa, please let old Cuff die in the cabin; can't breathe in the big white house." And his wishes were gratified. An attendant was furnished him, and in a few days he breathed his last in the old cabin, and he was laid to rest where the spring flowers bloom earliest. He remembered his early home in Africa, and was always fond of describing it. At one time he was a body-servant to an officer in the Revolutionary army, and well remembered Generals Washington and Lafayette.

Upton was set off from Mendon, Sutton, and Hopkinton. The first settlers of the south part of the town came from Mendon, but the east part of the town was settled by people from the towns near Boston. Some of the first settlers were John Hazeltine, David Batchelor, Jonathan Wood, Israel Taft, John Sadler, William Johnson, John Bromley, William Green, Benjamin Perham, Samuel Nelson, Stephen Denny, Samuel Watkins, Marshall Baker, Samuel Works, Samuel Reeks, John Warfield, Wilson Rawson, Robert Tyler, Matthew Taft, Peter Holbrook, Stephen Tenney, Thomas Palmer, Matthew Lockey, Ebenezer Fiske, Jonas Warren, Ephraim Whiting, Josiah Pease and others.

Israel Taft was a grandson of Robert Taft, one of the earliest settlers

of Mendon. Peter Holbrook of Mendon, deeded the lands where the West Part Mills now stand, to his son Peter, as early as 1712. Peter, Jr., at once erected a grist and saw mill there, which has been maintained to the present day. Matthew Taft, in 1728, settled in the east part of the town, taking his deed from the overseers of Harvard College. Many of his descendants emigrated to Vermont. The Fiskes also settled in the east part of the town, building a mill on the site of the present Fiske mills.

The Forbushes, Whitneys and Warrens settled the north part of the town, the Perhams, Holbrooks and Hazeltine, the west part, and Marshall Baker and David Batchelor, what is now called Mechanic Street. Jonathan Ward and Josiah Pease took the centre, with the Sadlers east of them. The names of Hazeltine, Bromly, Denny, Watkins, Work, Reeks, Warfield, Tyler, Palmer and Pease, so far as Upton is concerned, are extinct; no descendants bearing their name being in town. Some of them removed to other parts of the country, and of others the family name has wholly died out. The largest settlements for a long time were in the south part of the town, those in the centre being quite rare till more recently.

Upton was incorporated June 25, 1735. The act of incorporation was formally passed June 14, 1735, O. S., in the following words:—

*“Whereas, the out lands of the several towns of Sutton, Uxbridge, Mendon and Hopkinton are completely filled with inhabitants who labor under difficulties by reason of their remoteness from places of Public Worship in said towns, and have thereupon addressed this Court, that they may be set off, and vested with all the powers and privileges that other towns are vested in in this Province: Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by authority of the same, that all lands in the aforesaid towns, containing in the whole twelve thousand nine hundred and forty-three acres, together with one hundred and forty-one taken off from John Rockwood’s farm, be, and hereby are set off into a distinct and separate township by the name of Upton.”*

In three days after the passing of this bill, the House of Representatives ordered “that Mr. John Hazeltine, one of the principal inhabitants of said town in the County of Worcester, be, and hereby is fully authorized and empowered to assemble the Frecholders and other qualified voters, as soon as may be, in some convenient place, to make choice of town officers, to stand until the Anniversary meeting in March next.” On the 28th of July following, the first town meeting was holden, agreeably to the provisions of this act, at the house of Mr. John Sadler. John Hazeltine, Esq., was elected Moderator at this meeting, and the selectmen and other officers were elected, which gave the first impulse to the operations of this infant member of the body politic.

In the early settlement of the town, some of the lands were called “*lease*,” and some common “*lands*.” Why they were so called, and in what manner the incumbrance to which they were lawfully subjected was removed, may be important. Edward Hopkins gave by will £500 sterling, to be invested in houses and lands



in New England, the income of which was to be given to Harvard College. This was, with the interest, amounting in all to £800 sterling, given to twenty-one trustees, the money to be paid in 1715. In this year the Hopkins trustees petitioned the Legislature for leave to purchase Maguncog of the Natick Indians, which was granted, and the land so purchased, together with a tract of land lying between it and Sutton, was incorporated by the name of Hopkinton. In 1716, the General Court freely gave to the trustees of the legacy of Edward Hopkins all the Province lands contained within the town of Hopkinton, to be appropriated to the purpose of the trust. Both tracts of land amounted to about 25,000 acres. In 1735, 3,000 acres of this leased land was set off to Upton. In 1716 the trustees agreed upon the term of these leases, which were to run ninety-nine years from the 25th of March, 1723, and the tenants were to pay an annual rent of threepence per acre during that time, and not exceeding ninepence an acre after. And the trustees agreed to pay three-quarters of the Province taxes. But this arrangement was not satisfactory to either party: not to the trustees, for the Province taxes consumed all the rents; not to the tenants, because the leases contained no covenant that they should be renewed for the benefit of the original lessees, their heirs and assigns. In 1741 the General Court passed an act reducing the rent to one penny sterling an acre for the remaining ninety-nine years, and securing to the tenants the right of renewing their leases, at an annual rent not exceeding threepence sterling an acre for ever after. From that time to the year 1832 much controversy, litigation and hard feeling were had concerning this leased land. It entered into politics and affected the election of town officers, and especially representatives to the General Court. On the 22d of March, 1832, a resolve was passed authorizing the payment of \$8,000 from the State treasury, on condition that the tenants should raise such further sum, in addition to the \$8,000, as the trustees would accept in full discharge of all claims, in law or in equity, against the Commonwealth and against the tenants. The trustees subsequently consented to receive the sum of \$200 in addition to the grant of the State, and that sum was promptly paid by the tenants on the fourth day of October, 1832, and full releases were executed on that day by the trustees to the Commonwealth and the tenants. Accordingly these lands are free as are the other lands. Thus ended a controversy that at one time seemed disastrous to the tenants.

There are no records showing when the Congregational church was organized in Upton, but probably soon after the organization of the town; for on the 18th of August, 1735, the church gave Mr. Thomas Weld a call to become their pastor. This call he accepted, and was ordained Jan. 4, 1738. The town proposed to give him a settlement of £150 old tenor, as it was called, being about \$66.66 federal money, and a salary of \$38.60.

Among the first acts of the town was to erect a meeting-house. Nov. 10, 1735, the town resolved to build, and the site selected was near the "old



burying-ground," on the farm and near the dwelling-house now owned and occupied by Nahum B. Hall, one mile south of the centre of the town. The dimensions were to be 40 feet in length and 35 feet in width. At this meeting one hundred pounds were raised to defray in part the expense; but the house was never completely finished. Five years elapsed before it was all glazed, and twelve years before there was a pulpit. For a long time rough boards were used for seats in the place of pews. As new settlements were made in different sections of the town, serious objections were made to the location of the meeting-house. The first move was to ascertain the exact centre of the town. This was found to be on the plain south-west of Pratt Pond. Three sites were selected as suitable situations for the church,—one in the centre of the town, one where the present common is, and one on the hill, about half-way between the west village and the centre. Meeting after meeting was held without coming to any definite result. The town at length voted to refer the subject to a disinterested committee, and agreed to abide their decision. The committee selected were Capt. Edward Davis of Oxford, Hezekiah Rice of Framingham, Col. Oliver Wilder of Lancaster, Maj. Daniel Heywood of Worcester and Capt. Caleb Hill of Douglas. At the next town meeting, June 24, 1761, the town voted to rescind the vote calling said committee, and at the same meeting voted to let the present house stand for seven years, and then build a new house on the present common.

After a cessation of arms for seven years, May 22, 1768, the following action was had:—Will the town now proceed to move the meeting-house to the spot agreed upon June 24, 1761? Voted in the negative. Will the town divide into two separate parishes? Voted, no. Will the town raise a committee who shall give us their advice in our present divided state? Voted in the affirmative. The committee were Jonathan Livermore of Northborough, Samuel Reed of Uxbridge, William Jennison of Mendon, and Hezekiah Taylor of Grafton. This committee met, and after patient hearing made a report in the following words:—"Having taken into serious consideration your complaints and your different opinions, and after a very patient hearing of all parties so deeply concerned, we are of the opinion that it will be best for the inhabitants of this town to let their meeting-house remain where it now is; being fully satisfied that the town will be divided into two parishes before many years. All therefore being duly considered we thus judge."

After this decision little was said about moving the old house, but much about dividing the town into two parishes; much about building a new house, and the spot where it should stand. More meetings followed, but all to no purpose. On almost every page of the town records this warfare is kept up. Finally, in 1770, the majority of the town voted to build a new house, to be located on the spot where the present common is now, and agreed with Col. Ezra Wood to build the same. In 1821, a general repair was made of the same and a belfry added to it. This house stood until 1849, after the

erection of the present beautiful and commodious edifice on the west side of the common, when it was sold to D. B. Fiske, Esq., who demolished the belfry and removed the main building to near the old mill, on the east side of the common, where he made a fine hall in the upper part, and fitted the ground floor for offices. Some years ago it was sold to the town, who now use it for town purposes. It is now known as the Waverley Building.

The Congregational Church continue to worship in the house erected in 1848, and dedicated in 1849; the dedicatory sermon being given by the venerable Rev. Benjamin Wood. December 31st, service was held in the old church for the last time, the sermon by Rev. Benjamin Wood: text, John iv. 20, "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain." The new and present house was dedicated Jan. 3, 1849. Sermon by Rev. B. Wood: text, Psalms lxi. 4, "I will abide in thy tabernacle forever."

The pastors of that society have been the following: Rev. Thomas Weld, ordained Jan. 4, 1738, and dismissed in 1744. He afterwards was installed in Middleborough, Mass. He soon left that place and entered the army in the French war in the capacity of chaplain, and died while in service. After the dismissal of Thomas Weld, the first candidate employed was Nathaniel Tucker; the second was Silas Brett; the third was Ezekiel Doyle. To each of these gentlemen a call was given to settle, but neither of them was ordained. In 1750, application was made to Elisha Fish to preach. On the 28th of January, 1751, he received a call, and was ordained June 5, 1751. He died Aug. 6, 1795, in the seventy-sixth year of his age and the forty-fourth of his ministry. Rev. Nathaniel Emmons, D. D., preached his funeral sermon. Mr. Fish was born in Stonington, Conn., and was a graduate of Harvard College.

In June, 1795, Rev. Benjamin Wood preached for the first time in Upton. He received a call from the church on the 17th of December of the same year to be their pastor. On the 31st of the same month the town assembled to see if they would concur with the church. The records read thus: "Voted unanimously to unite with the church in calling Mr. Benjamin Wood to the work of the ministry in this place, and give him two hundred pounds for a settlement, and eighty pounds annually for encouragement and support to settle with us." Fifteen years after his settlement the town added forty pounds to his salary, and from that time until his death he received an annual salary of \$400. Mr. Wood died April 24, 1849, aged seventy-six, in the fifty-third year of his ministry. Rev. A. H. Tracy of Sutton preached his funeral sermon: text from Acts viii. 2, "And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentations over him."

Mr. Wood was born in Lebanon, N. H., Sept. 15, 1772, and was the youngest but one of twelve children, ten of whom lived to adult years. His parents removed to Lebanon from Mansfield, Conn., at the time of its early settlement, while yet a wilderness. Three of their seven sons became



ministers. The eldest, Rev. Samuel Wood, D. D., settled in Boscawen, N. H. Benjamin prepared for college under his brother Samuel, and entered Dartmouth at the age of sixteen. He graduated in 1793. He commenced the study of theology under his brother, and completed his preparation for the ministry with Rev. Dr. Emmons of Franklin. After the death of Mr. Wood, the Rev. William Warren was called. He was installed Nov. 14, 1849, and dismissed April 29, 1856. This gentleman was a native of Maine and a graduate of Bowdoin College.

Rev. Andrew J. Willard was ordained April 30, 1857; dismissed July 8, 1865. Mr. Willard was a native of Vermont, a graduate of the Vermont University. He is now a physician, practising in Burlington, Vt. Rev. Spencer O. Dyer supplied the pulpit from Nov. 20, 1865, to Nov. 20, 1870. Rev. John E. M. Wright was installed Nov. 15, 1871; dismissed March 31, 1875. Rev. Frank J. Marsh was ordained Jan. 26, 1876. Mr. Marsh is still preaching. He is a native of Leominster and a graduate of Amherst.

There was a religious organization formed in 1770, called the Baptists or Christians. They had no church, but worshipped in halls and in school-houses. Elder Boise was their first minister; but not far from 1720 Simeon Snow was called, accepted and was ordained. He preached several years and then removed to Vermont.

After Mr. Snow came Elder Sawyer and Elder Smith. Soon after, Elder Dexter Bullard preached several years. He was an able and effective minister.

After Elder Bullard left, the society became weak, and was merged in the First Unitarian Society of Upton, which was organized in 1846. They erected a church in the centre of Upton, which was dedicated in 1848. Rev. William C. Tenny was the first regular preacher, but left in 1849, and is now living in Kansas City, Mo. Mr. Tenny was succeeded by Rev. George S. Ball, who has been their minister from that time until the present, with the exception of some two years, when he was at Plymouth, and some eighteen months he was chaplain of the twenty-first regiment in the late civil war. Mr. Ball is a graduate of Meadville Theological School.

In the years 1873 and 1874; Hon. William Knowlton built a fine church in West Upton, the use of which he has given to the Unitarian Society. In the year 1874, the proprietors of the Unitarian Society sold their church in the centre to the Roman Catholics for \$5,000. They still worship in it. Father Barrett of Grafton is their spiritual adviser. A Methodist Society was formed in 1873. Their first preacher was Rev. N. B. Fiske. He labored with them three years; succeeded in building a church. His successor was Rev. John Short, and he was followed by Rev. Mr. Hubbard, their present minister.

There was a Universalist Society formed March 9, 1825, but it became merged into the Unitarian Society in 1847.



## CHAPTER II.

SCHOOLS AND LIBRARY — MILITARY HISTORY — WAR OF SECESSION — AGRICULTURE — MANUFACTURES — BOOTS AND SHOES — MILLS — STRAW GOODS — POLITICAL CONNECTION — POPULATION AND STATISTICS.

SOME of the first acts of the town were concerning schools. The records show that in some of the first years of their political existence they raised money for such purposes. For the last fifteen or twenty years they have maintained an efficient high school; and the one now keeping is quite flourishing under the care of Stephen H. Snow.

The town also established a free public library in 1874, which now contains some thirteen hundred volumes. About two years after its establishment Hon. William Knowlton gave the town a donation of \$500 to purchase books; and much interest has since been taken to replenish it with new ones. William Knowlton & Sons have quite a large private library in their manufactory at West Upton, established for the benefit of their employes.

The early records of the town were poorly kept, and are badly defaced. We know by tradition only that she did her duty on all trying occasions, and furnished her quota of men in all the great struggles for liberty. She was well represented in the French and Indian wars. Two or more at least of Putnam's Rangers were citizens of Upton. They entered early into the Revolutionary contest. March 26, 1770, the following resolves were passed unanimously:—

“*Therefore, Resolved, That we will treat with contempt all those persons that do continue to import goods from Great Britain contrary to the non-importation agreement; and that we will look upon such men with detestation, who, for the sake of their own private interest, are willing to reduce their posterity and their country to a state of abject slavery.*”

“*Therefore, Resolved, That we will not purchase or drink any foreign teas until the revenue acts are repealed, and that we will discountenance in our families the wearing of or using any foreign superfluities, and that we will use every lawful method in our power to encourage our own manufactures.*”

Upton furnished her full quota in the Revolution, and also in the war of 1812–14. To-day three widows are receiving pensions for services rendered by their husbands in the war of 1812,—those of Samuel King, Hosea Trumbull and Lambert Pierce.

In the war of the Rebellion, Upton was early in the field. Five of her sons served in the 3d battalion of rifles, being mustered in May 19, 1861; namely, William H. Aldrich, H. T. Bradish, Silas Dunn, George E. Childs and Charles K. Stoddard. Upton was credited with one hundred and ninety-two soldiers furnished for the Rebellion; and twenty-eight residents of Upton were credited to other towns. The late Arba T. Wood, who did good service as recruiting

officer for Upton, claimed that the town enlisted and put into the war two hundred and thirty effective men. No large number were enlisted at any one time, so the town was represented in almost all of the regiments. She had men in the 2d regiment; in the 7th, 9th, 13th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22d, 25th, 26th, 28th, 32d, 34th, 36th, 39th, 42d, 51st, 57th, 58th, 61st; in 2d, 4th and 5th Cavalry, in the 3d and 4th Heavy Artillery, in the 3d battalion of Riflemen, in the 7th Battery, in the Veteran Reserve Corps, in the 2d company of Sharpshooters, and in the Navy. Being represented in so many different organizations, her sons were on almost every battle-field in the late contest; and the loss of life was correspondingly large. Being so scattered, few of her men became officers. Rev. George S. Ball was chaplain of the 21st regiment. Charles K. Stoddard was first lieutenant in the 21st regiment. He was killed by a sentinel Sept. 30, 1861, near Baltimore. Harry T. Bradish was lieutenant in company I, 51st regiment. Quite a number of others held minor offices. Some twenty-eight of her sons were killed on the field, or died from wounds received in battle. Three died in Andersonville prison; namely, Harrison T. Bosworth (who died July 4, 1864), Charles E. Haynes and Charles H. Thompson.

Upton is a good farming town. The southern portion is particularly adapted to grain, especially for Indian corn. Tradition says that for years before the white man trod these grounds the Indians used to grow corn upon the extensive pine plains in the south part of the town. The north and east parts are well adapted to fruit, especially the apple. Much attention has been paid of late to the raising of hay, and many old swamps have been reclaimed which prove very productive.

In the early history of the town considerable attention was paid to the manufacture of boots and shoes. In the early settlement William Howe had quite an extensive tannery business. He was succeeded by John Hill; but the business is now discontinued and the "vats" filled up.

Among some of the boot and shoe manufacturers were John Hill, Daniel Nelson, Josiah Pease, Jr., Adams Batchelor, Adam Wheelock, Reuben Eames, Millet Baker, Newton Warren, Amos Batchelor and Asa Wood. Eli Warren built up a large shoe business at West Upton, to which succeeded his son-in-law Daniel W. Batchelor, and his grandson Eli W. Batchelor. D. G. Rawson, now of Newton, and the head of the large boot manufactory of D. G. Rawson & Co., began business in Upton, his native place. Also his brother, Tyler Rawson, who died a few years ago in Chicago at the head of one of the largest shoe manufactories in that great city. Quite a number of the sons of Upton went south early in the century and went into the shoe trade. The Stoddards, Nelsons and Tafts did quite a trade in Charleston, S. C., and the Wood brothers in Savannah, Ga.

Prior to 1820 rifles and guns were manufactured at West Upton, but not to a large extent.



Owing to the scarcity of water-power, no mills, save grist and saw mills, have been erected, save one on the extreme limit of the town near Milford. Many years ago Ebenezer Hunt erected a woolen-mill at the foot of Long Pond, where he manufactured woolen goods for a long time; but the mill was long ago burned and the waters are now used as a reservoir, and controlled by the manufacturers of Woonsocket, R. I.

As early as 1712, Peter Holbrook, Sr., of Mendon, sold to his son Peter, for the consideration of one dollar and his love and esteem for his son, a tract of land on Beaver Brook, so called, in West Upton. Peter at once erected a saw and grist mill, which was afterwards owned by David, Simeon, and Daniel Holbrook, and also by Stephen Taft, Nahum Holbrook, and Loring Benson. In 1848 the property was purchased by V. Taft & Co., who erected a large shop for the manufacture of shoe, boot, and bonnet boxes, and also a shop for the manufacture of doors, sashes, and blinds. The box-shop was run by the late A. T. Wood, who afterwards purchased the property. Thomas J. & Nahum B. Hall ran the sash and blind shop for many years, and were quite successful. They sold out to Metcalf Comstock, who ran the concern until the buildings were burned in 1874. After the decease of Arba T. Wood, the property was purchased by L. W. Hill, and is now owned by L. W. Hill & Son. After the burning in 1874, Mr. Hill erected the saw-mill and box-factory only, and is now engaged in the manufacture of bonnet, shoe, and boot boxes. A saw and grist mill was erected, in the early settlement of the town, in the centre. It was owned and run for many years by the "Wards," grandfather, father, and son. "The Old Mill and Capt. Ward, the Honest Miller," are among the historical traditions of the town. As early as 1730 "Miller Fiske" erected a saw and grist mill in the easterly part of the town, on Mill River, close by the line of Milford. These mills have always been known as the "Fiske Mills"; and are now owned, and always have been, by the descendants of "Miller Fiske" since his decease.

There was a saw-mill erected before the organization of the town in the south-east section, by Israel Taft, a grandson of Robert Taft, one of the early settlers of Mendon. The mill is now owned and run by Perly P. Taft, a grandson of Israel Taft. There have been a few other mills erected in other places in town, but, owing to lack of business or want of water, they have gone to decay. But the great business of Upton has been and is the manufacture of straw-goods, she having been among the first towns to engage in this industry. Soon after the war of 1812, the Underwood Brothers did, for those times, quite a business in the manufacture of bonnets. They were followed by Dea. Daniel Fiske and Harvey Bradish, who, in connection with the West India and dry-goods trade, did quite a business in the manufacture of straw-cord and straw trimmings of all kinds. Lyman and Elijah Stoddard also were active in the same line, and Miss Henrietta Colburn was extensively engaged in straw cord, gimp, and "seven-braid."



As early as 1825, Capt. William Legg was engaged in the same business. He kept the hotel in West Upton and also a dry and West India goods store; but, selling out his store and hotel in 1832, he gave his whole time to the manufacture of straw-goods. In 1835 he took into partnership Hon. William Knowlton, the present senior partner of William Knowlton & Sons. They at once erected a large and commodious shop, and a large boarding-house for the accommodation of their women help. Legg and Knowlton remained together some ten or twelve years, when Legg retired. Joseph S. Farnum was a short time in partnership with Mr. Knowlton. After Farnum's retirement, the business was carried on alone by Knowlton until his sons became of age. The firm is now William Knowlton & Sons, and consists of William Knowlton, Edwin F. Knowlton, George W. Knowlton, and Eben F. Knowlton. Their salesroom is at 537 Broadway, New York, and Edwin F. is at the head in New York; George W. is the general manager at West Upton. They have extended their works so that to-day they have the facilities to manufacture as many goods as any straw-shop in the country; and they give employment to a large number of persons, both male and female. Their buildings are large, all heated by steam, and lighted by gas of their own manufacture. They have a stationary engine, used, if necessary, to extinguish fires. Their buildings are abundantly supplied with water, both for mechanical purposes and for fire. They pride themselves on manufacturing as "tasty" a bonnet as is made on the Continent, and it is no disparagement to other manufacturers to say that the goods manufactured by William Knowlton & Sons rank as high as any in the market. A large portion of the material made into bonnets is imported, — a large amount from China. Their market is the whole country. Most of their help are Americans, though of late years they have employed many Englishmen that formerly worked on straw in Luton, Eng. A large portion of their female help is farmers' daughters from neighboring towns and from Maine and New Hampshire. Many a thrifty housewife has earned her "setting out" in the straw-shop at West Upton. In the busy season they ship their goods every day, and sometimes twice a day. Their goods are all shipped to New York and sold from there.

Benson & Nelson have quite an establishment in the centre of the town for the manufacturing of boys' hats. Their business is increasing from year to year and adds materially to the prosperity of the town. L. W. Hill & Son, at their mill in West Upton (on the site of the "Holbrook Mills"), do an extensive business in box-making. They also have a planing-mill and do general job-work.

Seth T. Davenport has also a small shop on the same stream, manufacturing sashes and blinds.

There are three grist mills in town, and five saw-mills. At two of them — Fiske's Mill and at P. P. Taft's — some shingles are made. There are also four blacksmiths' shops and two shops where they make and repair carriages.

Four West India and dry-goods stores are kept in town, also one hotel — the "Warren House" — at West Upton. This same building has been used for a hotel for more than a century, and at one time was a noted stage-tavern, it being the place where passengers going from Worcester to Providence dined.

There are a Congregational, a Methodist and a Roman Catholic church, all situated in the centre; also, a Unitarian church at West Upton.

Upton and West Upton have post-offices, and the latter village a telegraph office; but there are no railroads in Upton. The Boston and Albany runs just north of the town, and the Providence and Worcester just south; and the Milford stops just east of her borders. There is a daily mail from Boston and West Upton by the way of Milford, and twice a day from Worcester through Upton Centre by the way of Farnum's.

Before the introduction of railroads, the trade of Upton was largely with Providence, R. I. The first mail-route established through the place was from Providence to Worcester, and it was not until after the Boston and Worcester Railroad was built that direct postal communication was had with Boston.

Upton is at present reckoned in the Ninth Congressional District (represented by Hon. W. W. Rice of Worcester); also in the Second Councillor District, the Second Worcester Senatorial District, and the Second Worcester County Representative District, comprising the towns of Milford, Mendon, and Upton: said district being a double one and entitled to two representatives annually.

The population of Upton was, in 1850, 2,023; in 1860, 1,986; in 1870, 2,018; and in 1875, 2,125. She has a town debt of \$10,690.70; against which she reckons a valuation made up of, school-houses, \$5,600; town library, \$1,000; town hall, \$2,000; cemeteries, \$1,200; town farm, \$4,000; water-works, \$800; fire-engines, \$1,500. This stands for the public assets; the taxable list being, real estate, \$641,769, and personal property, \$204,896. The number of polls in 1879 was 510, and of school children between five and fifteen years of age, 318.

The town lies thirty-four miles from Boston, twenty-eight from Providence, and thirteen from Worcester.

# UXBRIDGE.

BY GEORGE A. STOCKWELL, A. M.

## CHAPTER I.

### INCORPORATION AND EARLY HISTORY—THE TOWN CHURCH—THE REVOLUTION.

THE town of Uxbridge lies in the south-eastern part of the county, bordered on the north by Northbridge, on the west by Douglas, on the south by Burrillville and Smithfield, R. I., and on the east by Blackstone and Mendon. The distance from the shire town is eighteen miles, and from the capital, forty-two.

The Indian name of Uxbridge was Wacantuck, or Waentug. Little is known concerning the Indian inhabitants. They belonged, however, to the Nipmuck nation, were visited by Eliot and Gookin, and, previous to King Philip's war, there was in Uxbridge, or Waentug, a band of "Christian converts." The largest settlement was east of the present centre of the town, on the plain between the Mumford and West rivers. In the Kuttatuck, or Nipmuck (Blackstone) River, lamprey and salmon abounded at certain seasons of the year.

Early in the year 1727 the inhabitants of Mendon, living in the western part, petitioned the town "to vote them off," that they might be incorporated as a separate town. On March 31, 1727, the town of Mendon, "by unanimous vote," granted the prayer of the petitioners, and subsequently a petition of the inhabitants aforesaid was presented to the General Court, and received action on June 15, 1727, as follows:—

"A Petition of sundry Inhabitants of the Western Part of the Town of Mendon, Shewing that for many years they and their Families have laboured under great Difficulties by Reason of their Remoteness from the Place of publick Worship in the said Town, that they have applied to the said Town for their Consent to their being set off a separate Town & that a Meeting of the Inhabitants legally warned and held the thirty-first of March last, an Unanimous Vote was passed for the Petitioners being set off accordingly; And therefore Praying that this Court would please to constitute them a separate Township by such bounds as have been agreed to by the said Town of Mendon in their Votes passed as aforesaid.



“ In the House of Representatives ; Read and Ordered that the Prayer of the Petition be granted, and that the Petitioners have leave to bring in a Bill accordingly ; In Council, Read & Concurred, Provided the Grant of the Township within mentioned be not construed to effect the Rights & Properties of any Persons to lands within the same. In the House of Representatives : Read & concurred.”

The western part of Mendon was incorporated as a “ separate and distinct town ” on June 27, 1727, and named Uxbridge, in honor of Henry Paget, Earl of Uxbridge, and at that time a member of the privy council. Following is a copy of the Act of incorporation : —

“ ANNO REGNI REGIS GEORGII DECIMO TERTIO.

*“ An Act for dividing the Town of Mendon and Erecting a new Town there by the name of Uxbridge.*

“ Whereas, the Westerly part of the Town of Mendon within the County of Suffolk is competently filled with Inhabitants who labor under great difficulties by their remoteness from the place of Publick Worship &c., and have thereupon made their application to the s'd Town of Mendon, and have likewise addressed this Court, that they may be set off a distinct and separate Town, and be vested with all the powers and privileges of a town ; & the Inhabitants of Mendon having Consented to their being Set off accordingly,—

“ *Be it Therefore Enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Council & Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same,* That the Westerly part of the s'd Town of Mendon, do & hereby is sett off and constituted a separate Township by the name of Uxbridge, the bounds of the town to be as followeth, That is to say, Beginning at the South-West corner of the Town of Mendon, at the Province South line, thence to run Four miles East with the Province line, then to a Northal line paralel with the West line of the s'd Town until that line meet with a small brook that runs between the West hill & Misco hill, then y<sup>e</sup> s'd brook to be the bounds to the West River, then the West River to be the bounds to a brook known by the Name of Andrew's Brook, which brook shall be the bounds to the North line of the Township ; and that the Inhabitants of the s'd Lands as before described and bounded, be and hereby are vested with the powers, privileges and Immunities that the Inhabitants of any of the Towns of this Province are, or ought by law to be vested with.

“ *Provided,* the Grant of the s'd Township be not Construed to affect the Rights and Properties of any persons to lands within the same.

“ *Provided also,* that the Inhabitants of the said Town of Uxbridge do, within the Space of two years from the Publication of this Act, Erect and finish a suitable House for the Publick Worship of God & procure and settle a learned Orthodox Minister of good conversation and make provision for his comfortable and honorable Support and that they set apart a Lott of not less than one hundred acres of Land in some convenient place in the said Town near the Mceting House for the use of the Ministry & likewise provide a School Master to Instruct their youth in writing and reading.

“ June 27, 1727 ; This Bill having been read three several times in the House of Representatives ; Passed to be Enacted.

“ WILLIAM DUDLEY, *Speaker.*

"June 27, 1727; This Bill having been read three several times in Council; Passed to be Enacted.

"J. WILLARD, *Secretary*.

"By the Honorable, the Lieutenant Governor; I consent to the Enacting of this Bill.

"WILLIAM DUMMER.

"In the House of Representatives; *Ordered*, That Mr. Solomon Wood, a principal Inhabitant of the Town of Uxbridge, be impowered & directed to notify & summon the Inhabitants, duly qualified for Voting, to meet & assemble for the Chusing of Town Officers to stand until the next annual election according to Law.

"In Council; Read & Concurred; Consented to,

"WILLIAM DUMMER."

The first town meeting, of which the following is the record, was held on July 25, 1727:—

"The inhabitants of the town of Uxbridge being by order from the Honorable General Court to Mr. Sollomon Wood and by him Legally Warned, Met and made choice of Town Officers for the present year. The persons elected into office were the under written: Moderator, Sollomon Wood; Selectmen, Robert Taft, Ebenezer Read, Wooland Thompson, Lieutenant Joseph White, Edmund Rawson; Surveyors of highways, Solomon Wood, James Keith, John Emerson; Constables, Thomas White, William Brown, Jr.; tything-men, Joshua Whitney, Joseph Taft; treasurer, Solomon Wood; fence-viewers, John Cook, William Holbrook; hog-reaves, Gershom Keith, Simon Peck."

At the second meeting of the inhabitants of Uxbridge, on August 25, at the house of John Farnum (where, probably, the first was held), "it was put to vote to see if the town will come into some method to fix a Spot to Build a meeting house for the public worship of God amongst us, that may be convenient for the whole town to assemble in by Pitching on a Spot to Build on themselves or by leaving the affair to some unconcerned Gentlemen to fix a spot in the Senter of the Town." At a meeting held subsequently, "it was voted to Sett ye Meeting House on ye Southside of Drabble Tail Brook, but seeing it would be inconvenient to Set it where the First Vote specified They recalled said vote & passed a vote that they would Sett the Meeting House within the Fence of Ebenezer Read's pasture on a place which they had viewed for & judged convenient for that purpose."

On Oct. 20, 1727, Mr. Ferry's offer to preach for twenty shillings a Sabbath was accepted; and, at the same meeting, it was voted to build a meeting-house, forty feet in length, thirty-five feet in breadth, and nineteen feet "between joynts"; and the inhabitants were "warned that they could have liberty to work out their proportion of the tax."

On March 6, 1728, the town voted, "not to free the Quakers." At the same meeting a committee was appointed, "for to provide some suteable person for to preach unto us."

At a meeting held on July 8, 1728, it was voted, "to procure fifteen gallons



of good rum for ye raising of ye meeting house." The church edifice was raised, and carried so far toward completion that services of the order, and town meetings were held in it in January of the following year. It was a rude structure, without clapboards or paint, belfry or steeple, and, for several years, contained only one pew, designed for the pastor's family; the other members of the congregation sitting upon bare benches, the men on one side of the house and the women on the other. This house of worship stood on or near the site of the present First Congregational church edifice, and was in use until 1773, when it was removed and a new one erected at the same place. On Jan. 28, 1729, a committee was appointed "to consider about getting a minister;" and on July 18, the town voted to give Othniel Campbell seventy pounds yearly salary and one hundred pounds "for encouragement to settle amongst us in the Gospel ministry." Mr. Campbell declined this offer, and it was made to and accepted by Nathan Webb, who was ordained on Feb. 7, 1731, and remained until his death, on March 17, 1772.

In May, 1730, the first "contribution was taken up to support preaching."

One of the earlier acts of the town was that of laying out a "way from ye road on the east side of West River to ye road on ye west side of the Great River where it may be convenient for ye inhabitants to come to Meeting and Mill in; also a way to accommodate ye inhabitants about Neshochong and ye southerly part of ye town."

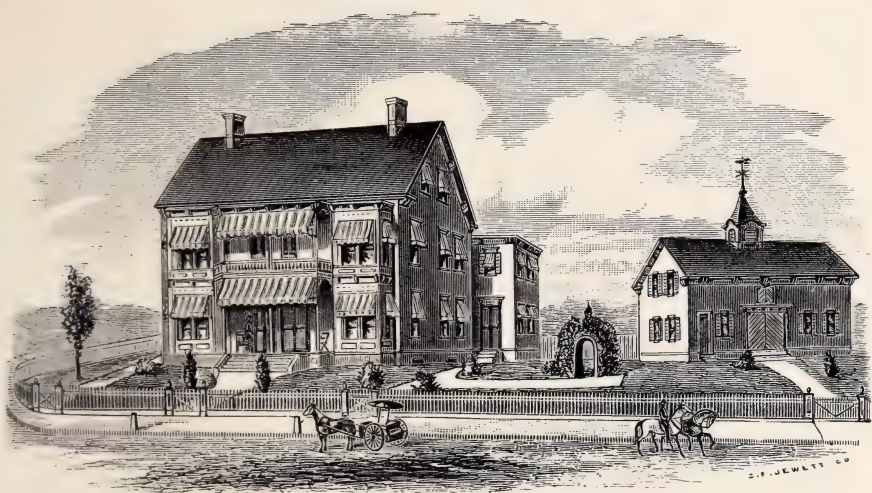
At a meeting held on May 14, 1730, a committee was chosen "to go in ye town's behalf to see about letting the Fish come up ye Great River in case other towns should send to Providence to join with them"; also, at the same meeting, it was "put to vote whether they would grant any Bounty for killing wolves, but it passed in the negative."

On Jan. 25, 1732, it was voted "to set up and keep a school in ye town of Uxbridge, and that a school-dame be secured for seven or eight months in the year." This vote was reconsidered "under ye consideration of having a school master in town." During the same or the following year, George Woodward, the first teacher in Uxbridge, conducted a school in the meeting-house for nine months, and received for that service fifteen pounds. The only school in Uxbridge, as far as known, for more than twenty years, was kept in the meeting-house. On March 2, 1753, it was voted "to squadron ye schools in convenient places where it should be kept," when, according to the practice of other towns at that time, the school was doubtless kept in different places at different times by one and the same teacher.

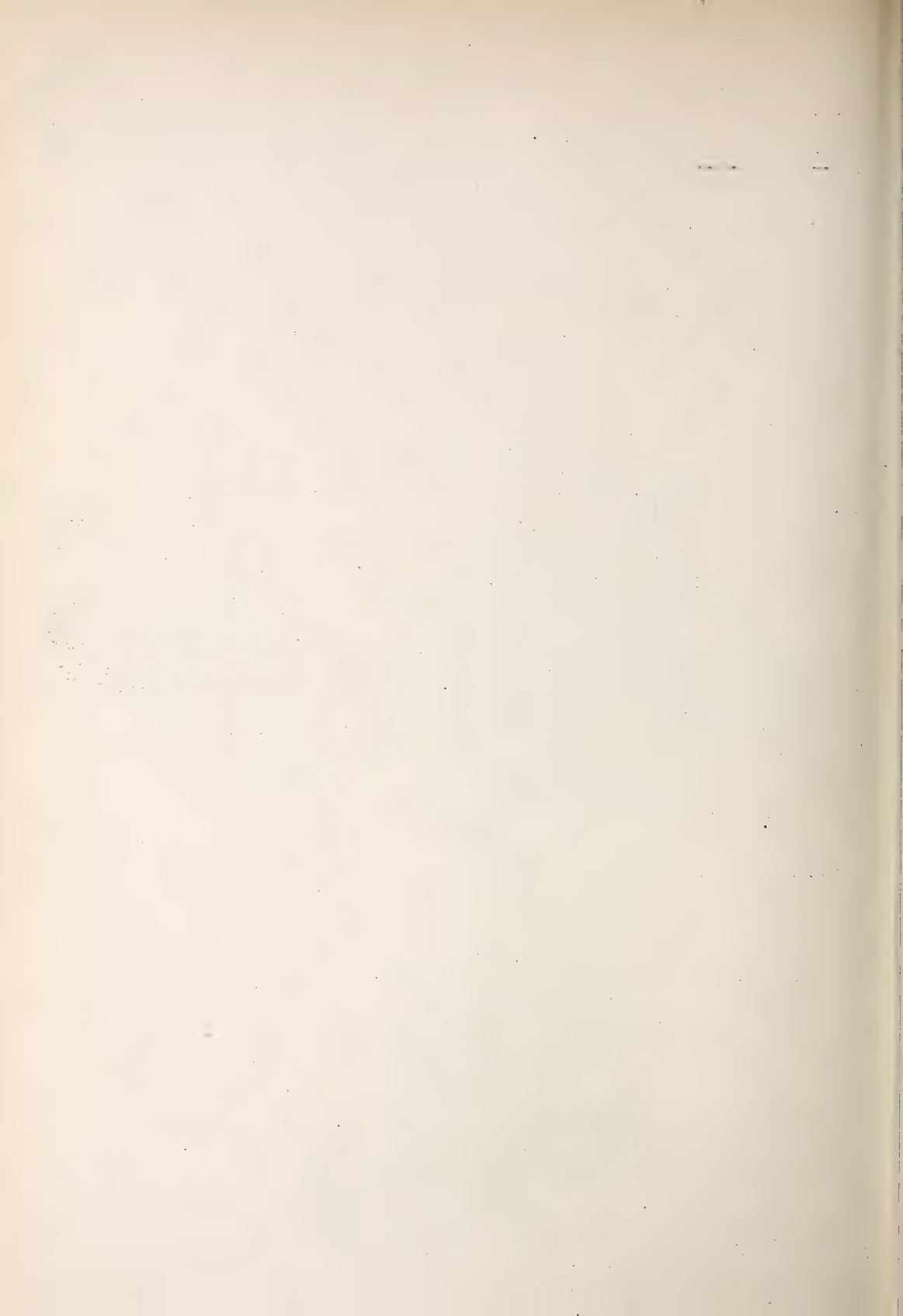
On March 2, 1732, the town voted to provide a pair of stocks "for the benefit of such disorderly persons as might need correctionary and salutary reproof."

In 1776, on September 1, the town voted "to allow ye Representative to vote to make good the lieutenant Governor's damage Latly Sustained by ye mob in Boston if he thinks proper upon the best information he can *git*." In





RESIDENCE OF LEVI WILSON, UXBRIDGE, MASS.



1772 the northern part of Uxbridge was set off to form the district of North-bridge.

The first act of the town of Uxbridge, with respect to the Revolution, was the appointment of a committee on July 6, 1774, "to correspond with committees that now or shall be chosen by any towns in this province for the purpose on any Matur that may respect the present difficulty that now or may subsist between Great Britain and North america." This committee consisted of Samuel Read, Joshua Wood, Moses Taft, Seth Read, Joseph Chapin, Moses Keith, Dexter Wood, Simeon Wheelock, and Nehemiah Hall.

On Oct. 26, 1774, it was voted in town meeting "to purchase five barrels of powder and as much shot as was proper," and a committee was chosen "to provide for soldiers who may be called to march."

In January, 1775, the town voted "to carry the resolves of the continental congress into execution," and a committee of inspection was appointed "to see them strictly adhered to in this town." At this meeting, Benjamin Green was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress to be held at Cambridge, and, on May 31 of the same year, Abner Rawson was chosen to attend the Continental Congress at Watertown.

At the May meeting in 1776, the following article was acted upon:—"To see if the town will vote if the Honorable Congress should, for the safety of the United Colonies Declare themselves Independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain. Whether they will solemnly Engage with their lives and fortunes to support them in the Measure, and it passed in the affirmative."

In July, 1776, it was voted "to grant six pounds to each person who shall Enlist in behalf of this town to go to Canada, or the Northern Department, agreeable to the late act."

During this year (1776), Abner Rawson represented the town in the General Court, and Joseph Read the following year.

In May, 1777, the town chose "by written votes," Seth Read "to procure and Lay before the court the Evidence that may be had of the Inimical disposition of any Inhabitant of this town towards this or any of the United States who shall be charged by the freeholders and other Inhabitants of said town, or if their residence within this State is lookt upon to be dangerous to the public peace and Safety."

In May, 1777, the town voted to instruct its representative not to vote for the proposed form of constitution and form of government.

In March, 1778, it was voted "to send to the soldiers now in actual service in the Continental Army in behalf of the town of Uxbridge for three years, or during the war, two shirts, one pair of tow breaches, two pair of stockings and one pair of shoes," and a committee was chosen "to procure s'd cloathing."

During the year 1778, two thousand pounds were raised "to provide for soldiers in the Continental Army"; and in the same year "men were sent to Rhode Island and men as Guards to Rutland."



In January, 1779, the warrant for town meeting contained this article: "To see what sum of money the Town will give, or Allow to such Persons as have Procured a man to do a turn for them in the Continental Service for three years or during the War."

In April, 1779, two thousand five hundred pounds were appropriated "to carry on the Continental War."

At a meeting of the inhabitants of Uxbridge in June, 1779, it was voted "that the committee for Hireing Soldiers for s'd Town be Directed to Engage to Such Soldiers as they may hereafter Procure to Engage in the present war in Consequence of orders Received for that purpose (for the Hire of such Soldiers) Either Continental Currency, or the produce of the land Raised amongst us, Acting Deferentionarily in Engaging either Money or produce, as to the sum of Money, or Quantity of produce and at what price, as they with such soldiers may agree."

In August, 1779, Abner Rawson was elected to represent the town of Uxbridge in the convention held at Concord; and it was voted "to unanimously adopt the proceedings of the convention held at Worcester on August 13," and a committee was appointed "to carry such resolutions into Execution."

In November, 1780, one thousand pounds were raised to supply the army with beef; also, in January, 1781, twenty-three thousand pounds were appropriated for the same purpose; also, fifteen "hard dollars" were voted to hiring "continental men"; and on Aug. 28, 1781, the town voted to raise one hundred and fifty pounds, hard money, for the supply of beef called for by the General Court.

At the first election of Governor under the Constitution, in 1780, the town of Uxbridge cast seventy votes for John Hancock for Governor, thirty-eight votes for Artemas Ward for Lieutenant-Governor, and twenty-eight votes for James Bowdoin, the rival candidate for the office of Lieutenant-Governor.

A committee appointed "to estimate, or set the price upon Several Services that have been done by the Continental men in Consequence of the Requisitions of the General Court as well as volunteer services," reported as follows: —

"The 8 months service to Roxbury, . . . . .				£14 16s. 0d.
2	"	"	with Capt. Tyler, . . . . .	3 0s. 0d.
12	"	"	York, . . . . .	30 0s. 0d.
12	"	"	Canady, . . . . .	33 0s. 0d.
5	"	"	York, . . . . .	16 13s. 4d.
5	"	"	Canada & N. Dept., . . . . .	14 0s. 0d.
8	"	"	Nantasket, with Col. Whitney, . . . . .	14 16s. 0d.
4	"	"	Dorchester, with Lt. Balden, . . . . .	7 8s. 0d.
2	"	"	Tarrytown, with Col. Tyler, . . . . .	6 13s. 4d.
6 weeks service to Providence, . . . . .				5 0s. 0d.
3 months service to Bound Brook, with Capt. Read, . . . . .				10 0s. 0d.
4	"	"	Dorchester, with Capt. Balden, . . . . .	7 8s. 0d.

"The 14 days service to Providence, with Lt. Fish, . . .	£1 13s. 4d.
3 months service to Providence, with Capt. Martin, . . .	10 0s. 0d.
4 " " " Capt. Sibley, . . .	13 6s. 8d.
1 " " upon secret expedition, . . .	3 6s. 8d.
6 " " to guard stores, . . .	6 0s. 0d.
3 " " the northward, with Capt. Knap, . . .	12 0s. 0d.
3 " " R. I. State, with Col. Tyler, . . .	10 0s. 0d.
21 days service to Prov., with Capt. Seagrave, . . .	2 2s. 0d.
6 weeks service to R. I., . . .	5 0s. 0d."

## CHAPTER II.

### TOPOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL FEATURES — GROWTH AND IMPROVEMENT — ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

THE territory of Uxbridge includes about twenty-five square miles. The surface is uneven and rugged in some parts, level and arable in others, and possesses its full complement of water acreage, meadow, upland, hill and wooded tract. The Mumford River, having its rise in Badluck Pond in Douglas, and Manchaug Pond in Sutton, enters Uxbridge on the north, flows in a south-easterly direction, and joins the Blackstone a mile south of Uxbridge Village. The Blackstone River also enters on the north, though further east, and flows southerly. The West River rises in the northern part of Upton and runs southward through the eastern part of Uxbridge, joining the Blackstone below its confluence with the Mumford. On the three streams are the manufactories that give Uxbridge its wealth and its prominence among the towns of the county as a manufacturing borough.

The commercial centre of Uxbridge is in the northern part of its territory, on the Mumford River. Early in the present century North Uxbridge and Ironstone, on the south, were the larger villages and were post-stations, while Uxbridge Village, as the present centre is called, was not. But the opening of the Blackstone Canal in 1828, the building of two warehouses at this place, and the opening of the Providence and Worcester Railroad in 1846, and the erection of a station-house and depot, caused the lesser to become the greater settlement. The town was little benefited by the canal; but improvements followed its establishment, and were continued to and revived by the opening of the railway. From that time to the present Uxbridge Village, and the town as a whole, has steadily advanced in population, wealth and importance.

The main street of Uxbridge Village is a part of the old stage road extending from Worcester to Providence. On it are the church edifices of the Catholic, Congregational, Unitarian and Methodist societies, the old Academy Building, where district court is held, the high-school building, public library, bank,

new town hall, railway station, stores and the public house — the "Wacuntuck House." On this street also is an old house said to be the oldest in Uxbridge, at which George Washington was pleased to stop, and write and dispatch a message. The desk on which the message was written is in the possession of a present inhabitant, and is highly prized. The town's common abuts on this main thoroughfare; and facing it and each other are the Unitarian and Congregational churches. East of this village, across the Mumford and between it and the Blackstone and between the Blackstone and the West River beyond, the land is comparatively level. In this part of the town are farm lands, some of the larger woolen manufactories, and large and handsome residences indicative of the wealth and comfort of the inhabitants. With respect to the latter statement, the same is true of the main and outlying streets.

Two miles north of Uxbridge Village is North Uxbridge, the early growth of which was due to its position on the turnpike between Boston and Hartford. The old "Spring Tavern," a vestige of which still remains despite its modern covering, was a famous resort and halting-place in the ante-railway days, and noted for the hospitality of its landlord and the excellence of its purl and flip. Not far from the "Spring Tavern" is the farm-house of Samuel Taft, where Washington, on his way from Boston to Hartford, soon after his election to the Presidency, stopped and was entertained, and was so pleased with the family [Samuel Taft had twenty-two children] that he wrote the following letter to Mr. Taft: —

"HARTFORD, November 8, 1789.

"SIR,—Being informed that you have given my name to one of your sons, and called another after Mrs. Washington's family, and being moreover very much pleased with the modest and innocent looks of your two daughters, Patty and Polly, I do for these reasons send each of these girls a piece of chintz; and to Patty, who bears the name of Mrs. Washington, and who waited more upon us than Polly did, I send five guineas, with which she may buy herself any little ornaments she may want, or she may dispose of them in any other manner more agreeable to herself. As I do not give these things with a view to have it talked of, or even to its being known, the less there is said about the matter the better you will please me; but, that I may be sure the chintz and money have got safe to hand, let Patty, who I dare say, is equal to it, write me a line informing me thereof, directed to the President of the United States at New York. I wish you and your family well, and am your humble servant,

"GEORGE WASHINGTON."

Samuel's grandchildren are the present owners and occupiers of the Taft farm and homestead.

In this part of the town is the largest cotton-mill in Uxbridge. The village in its immediate vicinity was called Rogerson's Village, in honor of a former owner of the mill. A store is here, and the Baptist society worship in a hall in this village. The land lying roundabout is devoted to agriculture, and includes many excellent farms.



In the southern part of the town, about four miles from Uxbridge village, is the village of Ironstone, so called from the fact that formerly the stone in this region yielded iron in such quantities, that a smelting-furnace and foundry were established in the early history of the place. There was also a cotton-mill, and it was succeeded by other manufactures. Ironstone was a post-station for several years; it is accommodated by the New York and New England Railway.

During the last century the incorporation of towns was contingent upon the settling of a "gospel minister," and hence the establishment of the "standing order," as the Congregational Church was called, received the early attention of the inhabitants. As already given, the origin of the church in Uxbridge was nearly cotemporary with that of the town. The church edifice was erected, and Nathan Webb ordained pastor, who "continued in the faithful service of the Master," until his death in the sixty-sixth year of his age, on March 17, 1772. By the provisions of his will, dated Jan. 23, 1764, he bequeathed "to the church of Christ in Uxbridge, the sum of sixteen pounds, to be expended in the purchase of three silver cups of equal value, inscribed with the names of Nathan Webb, Ruth Webb, and Elizabeth Webb." The will also gave the church £26 13s. 4d., "to be invested and to be improved forever after towards the support of a learned, orthodox, and pious Congregational ministry in said church."

Hezekiah Chapman was ordained as Mr. Webb's successor in 1774, and remained until April 5, 1781. He was followed by Josiah Spalding, who was ordained on Sept. 11, 1782, and dismissed on Oct. 23, 1787. Samuel Judson, father of Willard Judson, was ordained on Oct. 18, 1792, and remained until his death on Nov. 11, 1832. On Sept. 23, 1831, at a meeting of the church, it was voted to call David A. Grosvenor as Mr. Judson's colleague. On February 7 of the next year, at a meeting held at the pastor's house, the society refused to concur with the church in calling Mr. Grosvenor, and a resolution was adopted to the effect that the members who were in favor of calling Mr. Grosvenor should withdraw from the old society and unite with the Evangelical Society recently organized, "in order to maintain the worship and ordinances of the gospel according to the established principles and usages of the Orthodox Congregational churches in this Commonwealth." Accordingly Mr. Grosvenor's adherents withdrew from the old society, and assumed the name of the "First Evangelical Congregational Church and Society in Uxbridge," and the mother church then or afterwards was known as the "First Congregational Church and Society in Uxbridge." The new society ordained Mr. Grosvenor on June 6, 1832. He was dismissed on June 15, 1842.

On Dec. 28, 1842, John Orcutt was ordained, and on May 1, 1849, dismissed. In January, 1844, a committee of ten was appointed, to unite with the committees chosen by the Baptist and Unitarian societies, to visit every family in town, for the purpose of supplying the destitute with copies of the Bible. In February, 1845, resolutions were adopted by the church and society

protesting against "human slavery, as a violation of human rights and of the spirit of the gospel, and as a system which the church could not countenance with impunity, declaring the church cannot fellowship Christians who support it, and disavowing any sympathy with those professed friends of the slave who deal in harsh denunciations against the church and ministry, and are seeking to abolish slavery at the cost of our civil and religious institutions."

On April 3, 1850, J. J. Abbott was installed pastor, and dismissed on Oct. 30, 1862. On Dec. 15, J. B. Johnson was installed, and dismissed on Jan. 21, 1868. T. C. Biscoe was installed on Dec. 2, 1868, and dismissed in 1875, on July 1st. The present pastor, William H. Cobb, was installed on Sept. 18, 1878. The whole number of members is 995; the present number, 141.

The first pastor of the Unitarian society, after the formation of the Evangelical Church, was Samuel Clarke, who was ordained on Jan. 9, 1833, and remained until his death, in November, 1859. His successor was Charles T. Canfield, ordained in the fall of 1860, and dismissed in April, 1862. R. D. Burr became pastor in 1862, and was dismissed in 1868. S. R. Priest was installed on Jan. 19, 1869, and served the society until Jan. 1, 1871. James T. Lusk was the next pastor, and was dismissed in July, 1875; and in the fall of the same year George Bremner, the present pastor, was ordained. This society was incorporated in 1797, and in 1834 the present church edifice was built.

In the southern part of the town, near a place called Ironstone, is the "Old Quaker Meeting-house." This building is of brick, and was erected in 1770, as the following from old records shows:—"In the 4th month 1770 the Smithfield monthly meeting ordered a meeting house to be built a little south-erly of Moses F. Farnum's, by the side of the Great Road. In the 4th month the house was built thirty-five feet long and thirty feet broad. During the 5th month, 1771, Adam Harkness, William Buffum and David Steere 'do Report yt they find the whole cost of building the Brick meeting house to amount to £206 8s. 1d.'" The house has been in use to the present time. Its walls show no sign of decay, and the roof, with no ornamental jets, appears as it did one hundred and eight years ago. The sashes contain the same small panes, and the same doors swing as formerly on leather hinges.

In 1842, on June 22, the North Uxbridge Baptist Church was organized at Rogerson's Village, when and where a council met, "to constitute a church, and ordain Austin Robbins." The Baptist churches of Sutton, Worcester, Woonsocket, R. I., and Thompson, Conn., were represented by pastors or laymen. The number of members at organization was twenty. The present membership is about one hundred. No house of worship has been erected; services have been, and are, held in a hall in Rogerson's Village. Austin Robbins was the first pastor, and was followed by Joseph Tillinghast; and he by James W. Russell, ordained on Nov. 4, 1854, and dismissed in May, 1865; Joseph Barber, settled on March 15, 1865, dismissed on Dec. 4, 1868; J. W.



Dick, settled in May, 1869, dismissed on Aug. 4, 1871; J. A. Tilton, settled on Feb. 2, 1872, dismissed on Sept. 30, 1877; B. H. Lane, the present pastor, was settled on Oct. 1, 1877. Joseph Smith and Job B. Boomer served this society at different times.

The Roman Catholic Church in Uxbridge had its origin in the year 1850, when the first mass was celebrated in Taft's Hall by Rev. Mr. McGrath. Other celebrants were, afterward,—Daniel Maloney, John Boyce, of St. John's Church in Worcester, and Charles O. Reily of Blackstone. E. J. Sherridan of Roxbury became the first resident pastor in 1852; and in October of the same year the present church edifice was erected. E. J. Sherridan remained pastor of the church till June, 1867, when he was succeeded by Dennis O'Keefe, who served till May, 1868. He was followed by Dennis C. Moran, who occupied the pastoral office until July, 1871, and was succeeded by Henry Robinson, the present pastor. James Boyle was appointed curate in 1876, and was succeeded in 1878 by John T. Madden, the present curate. St. Mary's "Chapel of Ease" was established by this parish, at Whitinsville, in the town of Northbridge, in 1871. The membership of both church and chapel is about two thousand.

The Methodist Episcopal Church in Uxbridge originated in a mission, established in September, 1874, when William Merrill, a preacher of the Methodist church, conducted services in Taft's Hall. He remained until Feb. 7, 1875, when he was succeeded by Frank T. Pomeroy, who served until April, 1877. During his administration, the congregation was increased to one hundred and fifty. The mission was organized as a church with eight members on Dec. 19, 1875, by William Hascall, D. D., presiding elder. John W. Collier was pastor from June 19, 1877, to June of the following year, when J. H. Thompson, the present pastor, was appointed by conference; previously, the appointments had been made by the presiding elder. The present membership is about sixty. On March 8, 1878, a lot was secured on which to erect a house of worship, the building of which began in 1879, and was completed in the same year, at a cost of five thousand dollars. The site of the church is a part of the old burying-yard.

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### CHAPTER III.

#### MILLS AND MANUFACTURING — EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS — LOCAL INSTITUTIONS — THE WAR OF THE REBELLION.

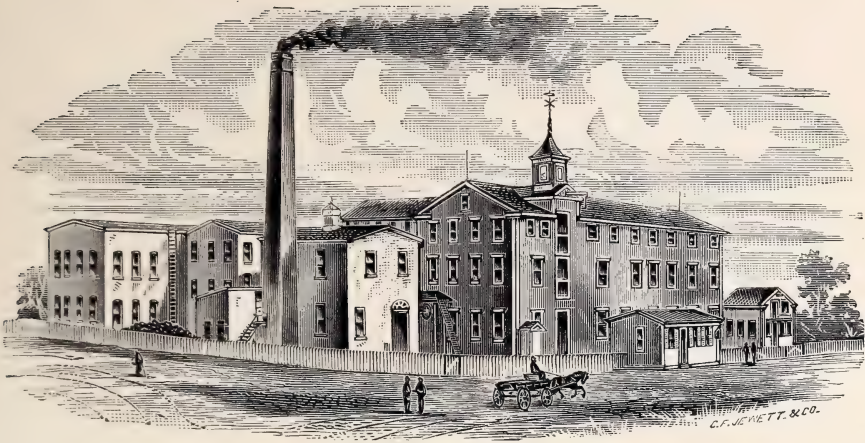
THE leading industry of Uxbridge is the manufacture of textile fabrics. The water-privileges afforded by the three rivers were early improved. As early as 1790, on the Mumford River, near the meeting-house, "there were



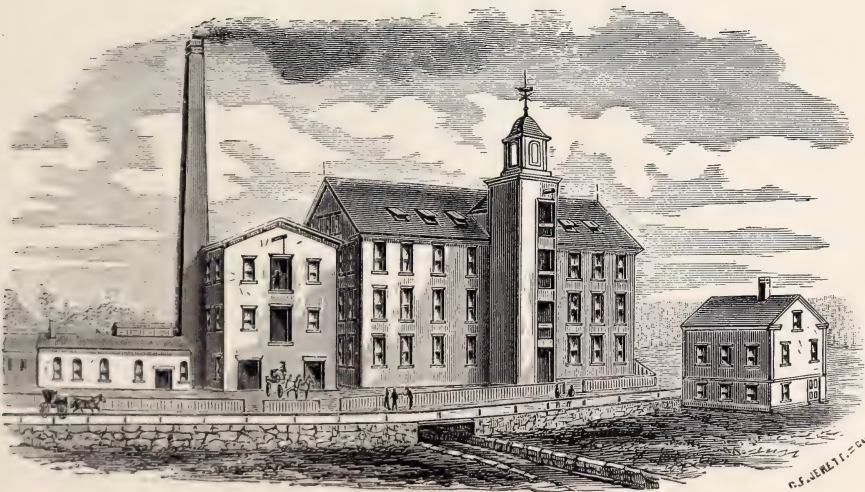
several sorts of mills and water-works in excellent order, where much business was well performed." In 1810, Daniel Day built, near the West River, a mill and put in a carding-machine and picker for the purpose of carding rolls for home manufacture. In the spring of 1811, the mill was enlarged and a billy and jenny added. In September of the same year, a hand-loom was put in, and during the year 1812 four more looms were added. The same kind of picker was used then as at the present time. It was operated by a picker-string attached to a picker-stick, held in the hand of the operator while the harnesses were worked by the feet of the weaver. This was the first woolen-mill in Uxbridge. Joseph Day and Jerry Wheelock were associated with Daniel Day. In 1825, this mill was enlarged, a canal built to it from the West River, power-looms added, and operated by Joseph Day; was burnt in 1844; rebuilt soon after, and in 1855 sold to Samuel W. Scott; burnt again in 1878 and immediately rebuilt. The present firm-name is J. R. Scott & Co. The mill contains three sets of machinery; forty-two operatives are employed, and forty thousand yards of satinets are made per month.

In 1810, Ebenezer Clapp erected a small mill in North Uxbridge, on the Mumford River, west of the present granite mill. In 1817, Robert Rogerson became owner, raised the dam and built the west mill in 1823, and the east mill in 1827. The greater part of the village—now called Rogerson's Village—was built and extensive improvements made. Rogerson failed in 1837, and the property passed into the possession of his creditors, who were incorporated in 1842 as the "Uxbridge Cotton Mills." In 1850, this property was sold to the Whitins, who united the mills. James F. Whitin is now owner and operator. This mill is equipped with improved machinery, and has no superior in this country. The grounds near it are laid out with much taste. The main building is three hundred feet in length; the product amounts to nearly two million yards per year of cotton sheetings. The number of operatives is one hundred and seventy-five, and the number of spindles is ten thousand.

In the western part of North Uxbridge is a privilege on a small stream called Rivulet, and the mill is known by the same name. In 1814, operations were begun at this place, a mill built, and a company or corporation formed to manufacture satinets, broadcloth, and cassimeres, with one set of machinery. This company was incorporated in 1816, and consisted of Daniel Carpenter, Ephraim Spring, Samuel Read, Alpheus Baylies, Samuel Judson, Jerry Wheelock, and Joseph H. Perry. In 1824 this company had no existence, and in 1832 its affairs were at an end. Alpheus Baylies operated the mill for two or three years after 1825, and then failed. Between 1830 and 1860, the mill was used for a carriage manufactory, and other works of minor importance. In 1868, Southwick & Sayles bought the property and supplied woolen machinery, and rented it for the manufacture of knitting yarn; burnt in 1871; rebuilt soon after and furnished with cotton machinery for making warps. In 1872, four sets of woolen machinery were substituted. Southwick sold his interest to



C. A. & S. M. WHEELOCK'S MILL, UXBRIDGE, MASS.



"RIVULET MILL," UXBRIDGE, MASS., SAYLES & TAFT, PROPRIETORS.





Zadok A. Taft, and the present firm-name is Sayles, Taft & Co. Forty-five operatives are employed, and thirty thousand yards of satinets made per month.

In 1814 a small mill was built at Ironstone by William Arnold and others, and used for a cotton-mill; burnt in 1828; rebuilt in 1832 and used for the manufacture of satinets; burnt in 1862; rebuilt in 1876, and now operated as a shoddy-mill.

In 1821, on the Mumford River, near the present centre of the town, was built the Capron Mill. It was used for the manufacture of satinets, and contained enough cotton machinery to make warps. The first power-looms in Uxbridge, and the first satinet power-looms in America, were used in this mill. The Capron Mill Company failed in 1829. In 1836 the mill was enlarged, more machinery added, and has always been a satinet-mill. The property is owned by the heirs of J. & W. Capron, and operated by Capron & Hayward; contains five sets of woollen machinery and enough cotton machinery to make the warps used in the mill; eighty-five operatives are employed, and forty-five thousand yards of satinets produced per month.

In the eastern part of the town, one mile from the centre, is the Wacantuck Mill on the West River. The dam was built in 1824, and the mill erected during the following year by Luke Taft; burnt in 1837 and rebuilt in 1838. In 1846, C. A. & S. M. Wheelock, the present owners and operators, came into possession of the property and manufactured satinets, tweeds, yarns and flannel; since 1855, cassimeres, of which latter one hundred and sixty thousand yards are made a year. The mill contains five sets of machinery, and gives employment to seventy-five operatives.

South-east of the centre of the town is the Uxbridge Woollen Mill. This mill and village are on the Blackstone. The dam was built in 1824, and the mill-structure in 1825. The manufacture of cassimeres was begun in the fall of 1826; the mill was burnt in August, 1828, and immediately rebuilt. Soon after this time the making of satinets was in progress and continued till 1844. The mill was owned and operated by an incorporated company, consisting of Amariah Chapin, Royal Chapin, George Willard, John Taft and Orsamus Taft, the first American weaver of satinets in this country. In 1846, M. D. F. Steere and Josiah Seagraves were in possession. In 1850, the mill was enlarged to accommodate twelve sets of machinery; burnt again in 1852, and rebuilt during the following year. In the spring of 1858 Steere disposed of his interest, and Seagraves failed. In 1860, the mortgagees sold to W. D. Davis of Providence. He sold to R. & J. Taft, who made extensive repairs. In 1870, W. D. Davis was again proprietor. The firm-name is now W. D. Davis & Co. One hundred and thirty operatives are employed; the mill contains twelve sets of machinery, and produces twenty-eight thousand yards of fancy cassimeres per month. This is the largest woollen-mill in Uxbridge.

The "Central Mill," so called, east of the centre of the town, on the Blackstone, was built by Moses Taft, who bought all the rights of the Blackstone

Canal Company, and rights of land-owners. The mill was supplied with four sets of machinery and rented to Southwick & Sayles, who were operators until 1861, when they sold their interest to Bradford, Taft & Co. of Providence. R. & J. Taft became owners in 1866; in 1873 the mill was enlarged, and now contains ten sets of machinery, employs one hundred and thirty operatives and produces twenty-five thousand yards of cassimeres per month. The present operator is Daniel W. Taft.

The Uxbridge Academy was built by subscription in 1819, and the first school was opened in 1820. Abiel Jacques was the first teacher, and was followed by Abijah Kendall. Jacques was employed again, and was succeeded by William H. Williams. In 1832, the school was called a "Female Academy," and was conducted as such until 1836, when a mixed school was held. In 1855, the academy accommodated the high school, and it remained there until provided for elsewhere. The upper part of the academy is used as a society hall, and the lower for the district court.

The public schools in Uxbridge consist of graded and mixed schools, and are in charge of a committee of twelve members. In 1868, a large and handsome building was erected for school purposes at the centre of the town. It accommodates the high school, grammar, intermediate primary, and sub-primary schools. There is a graded school at North Uxbridge — grammar and primary — and in other parts of the town there are nine common, or district schools. The school appropriation for the year 1878 was six thousand dollars.

The Uxbridge Public Library was established in March, 1873. The books of the Uxbridge Library Association, and Agricultural Library Association, formed the nucleus of the present collection of two thousand five hundred volumes, which is supported by annual town grants.

The district court for Uxbridge, Northbridge, Douglas and Blackstone was established on April 13, 1872, and is held every day, alternately in Uxbridge and Blackstone; on Mondays for civil business in Blackstone, and on Saturdays for civil business in Uxbridge. A. A. Putnam was appointed presiding justice and continues in office; and Zadok A. Taft of Uxbridge, and Francis N. Thayer of Blackstone, are assistant justices.

The post-office in Uxbridge was established previous to 1810 in the northern part of the town, now known as North Uxbridge. Samuel Read was the first postmaster, and at his house, which stood on the Boston and Hartford turnpike, the office was kept until 1852, when it was removed to Rogerson's village, its present place. Until the turnpike company was organized and began to run its coaches, the mail to and from Boston was carried in a "one-horse gig." This post-office accommodated the towns of Northbridge and Douglas. A post-office was established at the centre of the town in about the year 1825, and the following have been postmasters at the centre in this order: John W. Capron, Sullivan Thayer, Thomas Aldrich, Richard D. Mowry, Charles B. Rawson, and Charles A. Taft, the present incumbent.



The Blackstone Bank of Uxbridge was organized as a State bank of discount and deposit with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, at the house of Moses Chapin, on August 27, 1825, when the following were elected directors: John Capron, Benjamin Adams, Bezaleel Taft, Jr., Effingham L. Capron, Sylvanus Holbrook, John Thayer, Jr., George Wall, Jr., Peter Farnum. Presidents: John Capron, Bezaleel Taft, Jr., Paul Whittin, Moses Taft; cashiers, J. Gregory, E. W. Hayward, C. S. Weston. This bank was robbed of twelve thousand eight hundred dollars on July 12, 1874.

The Uxbridge Savings Bank was incorporated on June 3, 1870. Moses Taft is president, and Charles A. Taft, treasurer.

During the war of the Rebellion the town of Uxbridge furnished two hundred and ninety soldiers—seventeen more than was called for by the State. The first "war meeting" was held on May 11, 1861, when it was voted to give each volunteer belonging to the town twenty-one dollars a month while in service and one dollar a day for drilling" previous to enlistment, "not exceeding twenty days of eight hours a day." Fifteen hundred dollars was appropriated at the same meeting to purchase uniforms, and one hundred dollars to defray the expenses of forming a company of riflemen.

On May 3, 1862, two thousand five hundred dollars was appropriated to pay State aid to families of volunteers. A committee was appointed "to learn the names of the soldiers belonging to Uxbridge, that their names may be preserved to posterity by causing the same to be entered upon the records of the town." On July 23d the town voted to give a bounty of one hundred and fifty dollars to each volunteer for three years, and be accredited to the town quota. On August 23d the same amount of bounty was voted to those who entered the service for nine months, to be paid when the town's quota was full; if not filled by volunteers, and a draft was made, then no bounty would be paid.

In 1863, on March 2d, the treasurer was authorized to borrow four thousand dollars for State aid to be paid to families of volunteers during the year. On September 28th it was voted that State aid be paid to the families of drafted men. In December a committee was chosen to assist in recruiting, with authority to employ agents to proceed to the front to induce soldiers to re-enlist to the credit of the town.

On May 2, 1864, a bounty of one hundred and twenty-five dollars was voted to be paid to three years' volunteers, and so remained till the close of the war, to which time recruiting was continued. The whole amount expended for war purposes was twenty thousand two hundred dollars and sixteen cents (\$20,200.16); for State aid, fourteen thousand six hundred and thirty-three dollars and seventy-one cents (\$14,633.71). About ten thousand dollars was contributed by citizens and has not been reimbursed.

Following are the names of Uxbridge soldiers who died during or since the war: Capt. William H. Seagrave, Serg't Charles Bradford, Serg't Abram F. Burrill, Corp. Samuel C. Thompson, Corp. Henry A. Collar, Corp. Andrew



W. Garside, Aaron Metcalf, George O. Fitch, Henry H. Legg, James F. Russell, Arnold Mowry, Jerome P. Southwick, Henry Chapman, Palmer Braman, Walter L. Murdock, Orin F. Rawson, Walter Judson, Benjamin Hall, Charles Howard, Hezekiah Hall, John Simonds, James Norbrey, Henry M. Engley, John Whitcomb, Richard M. Sabin, Addison R. White, Michael Duggan, William J. Cole, Franklin L. Hayden, Samuel W. Smith, Walter L. Hayden, Charles H. Thompson, Edward E. Wright, Henry L. Taft, George W. Kenney, Hugh Salmon.

In 1820 and 1822 Benjamin Adams of Uxbridge was elected Representative to Congress.

In 1853 Joseph Thayer was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

Representatives to the General Court: Daniel Read, 1755; Nicholas Baylies, 1758; Solomon Wood, 1760, '61, '62; Ezekiel Wood, 1766 to 1771, inclusive; Joseph Read, 1772, '74; Abner Rawson, 1775, '76; Joseph Read, 1777; Nathan Tyler, 1778, '79, '80; Nicholas Baylies, 1781; Bezaleel Taft, 1783; Seth Read, 1784, '85, '86; Samuel Willard, 1787; Nathan Tyler, 1789, '90, '91; Bezaleel Taft, 1794 to 1797, inclusive, and 1802, '3, '4; Joseph Richardson, 1805; Bezaleel Taft, 1806; Peter Farnum, 1808; Benjamin Adams, 1809 to 1813, inclusive; Samuel Read, 1814; Daniel Carpenter, 1815; Samuel Read, John Capron, 1816; Samuel Read, Bezaleel Taft, 1817, '18; Samuel Read, Daniel Carpenter, 1819; Samuel Read, Bezaleel Taft, 1820; Bezaleel Taft, Jr., 1821, '22, '23; Joseph Thayer, 1824, '26; Bezaleel Taft, Jr., 1828; Joseph Thayer, Daniel Carpenter, 1829; Samuel Read, George Willard, 1830, '31; Samuel Read, Joseph Thayer, 1832; Effingham L. Capron, Joseph Thayer, 1833; Joseph Day, Samuel Read, 1834; John W. Capron, George Willard, 1835, '36; John Carpenter, Ellery Holbrook, 1837; Asa Thayer, Samuel Read, 1838; Francis Deane, Jr., Gideon Mowry, 1839; Jonathan F. Southwick, 1840; Otis Wilcox, 1841; Chandler Taft, 1842; Henry Chapin, 1844; Moses Taft, 1845; Cyrus G. Wood, 1854; Charles A. Taft, 1855; Jacob Taft, 1856; Samuel W. Scott, 1857; Joshua Garside, 1858; Scott Seagrave, 1859; Newell Tyler, 1860; William C. Capron, 1861; Scott Seagrave, 1863; R. D. Burr, 1865; Harrison C. Whitmore, A. A. Sherman, 1870; Charles A. Wheelock (senator), 1869, '70; George W. Hobbs, 1871; George W. Taft, 1873; Charles C. Capron, 1875; Zadok A. Taft, 1877.

William Baylies, M. D., a noted politician, was born in Uxbridge on Dec. 5, 1743; died in Dighton on June 17, 1826. He was a Member of Congress from 1805 to 1809.

Nicholas Baylies, judge and author, was born in Uxbridge in 1772, and died in London on Aug. 17, 1846.

Willard Preston, D. D., an eminent clergyman, was born in Uxbridge on May 29, 1785; died in Savannah, Ga., on April 26, 1850.

# WARREN.

BY MRS. EUNICE P. CUTTER.

## CHAPTER I.

FORMATION OF THE TOWNSHIP — INDIAN INHABITANTS — WILD BEASTS — INCORPORATION — NATURAL FEATURES — RAILROADS AND HIGHWAYS — WATER AND ROCK SYSTEMS.

WARREN, formerly called Western, is situated at the south-west angle of Worcester County. Its outline is irregular. Originally it was included in the towns of Brookfield (Quaboag), Palmer (Kingstown) and Brimfield.

A small portion of the Brookfield land ceded to Western (Warren) was bought by Ensign Thomas Cooper of Springfield, November, 1665, of Shattooquis and Mattawamppe, sagamores of a faction of the Quaboag Indians. The Indian grant was from the junction of the Lashaway, "the river that flows from Quaboag lakelet," with the outlet from Wickaboag Pond, down to the Naultaug (Dean's Brook), and so up this stream southward to the head of it, and from here to the verge of a hill called Asquoach (Bear-Knoll range); from thence to the lakelet or Podunk Pond.

When the town was incorporated a much larger tract than the above was taken from Brookfield. Brimfield was first known as the plantation adjoining Springfield. The land from a portion of Palmer was called the "Elbow Tract," so named from the angles of the rivers that form the Chicopee, and later the West Reserve. Ware bounds Warren on the north-west. A monument about eight rods in a swamp, on the road to the former village, is so situated that by a slight change in position one can be in three counties and three towns.

Beyond the railroad crossing, on the main road to West Brookfield, a few rods from the farm-house on the left, is a knoll from which the valley can be traced to Marks Mountain. Here stood the Marks garrison. Tradition shows that Mrs. Marks was a woman of bravery, not to add stratagem. Being left alone, she saw unfriendly Indians lurking near the garrison, waiting for an opportunity to attack the settlement. She quickly put on her husband's wig,

hat and greatcoat, shouldered a gun and paced the sentinel's beat at the top of the fortification, vociferating "All's well! All's well!" This artifice baffled the design of the Indians, and a hasty retreat followed. In some narratives it is told that an Indian was killed by an unerring shot from her gun.

A petty tribe of Indians had their wigwams about twenty rods south of the town farm-house. The site of the Sagamore's lodge, well remembered by William P. Cowee, was on a flat trending towards the swamp. The Indian village as well as their burial-ground was sheltered by the hills that gave them game; their salmon-fishery was in the Nenameseck (a fishing basket), or the Ware River. The portion of land north of the Quaboag (in some deeds spelled Schobouge), extending to the Ware River, was called Wombenesisccook, and bought of the sachem, Anogomok, James and Simon, sons and heirs of Black James, sachem of the Nipmuck country.

Though many years have elapsed since the Indian has disappeared from the Cowee and other fields in town, yet the plowshare, within a short time, has upturned their durable memorials of laborious ingenuity, in the shape of stone arrows and spear-heads, buried with the warriors who had gone to the hunting-grounds of the Great Spirit. Their chiefs were usually buried in a sitting posture, with the face toward the rising sun.

The corn was planted with an apology for a hoe, which was a large clam-shell or the scapula (shoulder-blade) of the deer, tied on a round stick of wood. Their strings were the tendons of animals or fibres of various plants. In each hill of corn a fish was placed for fertilization.

The four saplings to which the mother-squaw tied the large bearskin and therein placed her bead-eyed pappoose, lashed to a daintily-fashioned birch-bark, with the soft breeze of summer gently swaying the aerial cradle, became trees, and now have yielded to the woodman's axe.

The scooped-out rock and stone pestle are left to tell us of their coarse, simple fare — samp or hominy, also succotash, with their wild meats and fish. On Marks Mountain is a crumbling, rude stone fire-place, where the Indians cooked the fish caught in the rapid river at its base.

The many hills, with the purling brooklets in the ravines, were a forest park for the gazelle-eyed fawn and the "antlered monarch of the chase." Bruin, too, had his haunts and lair among the shelving rocks. As late as 1834 a bear strayed from the northern wilds, and peacefully ate his chestnuts while Debby Barnes filled her basket on the opposite side of the tree. But it was his last meal. The Nimrods, both old and young, pursued and killed him on Jimmy's Hill, within the limits of Palmer.

In the dead past, a stalwart Indian would come to the red man's burial-ground, and bending over a pyramid of undisturbed stones, that probably marked an ancestor's grave, for a time would seem entranced in prayer, then sorrowfully turn from the mound and retrace his steps to the blue waters that gave him fish and oysters.



Can we wonder that the Nipmuck braves became the allies of the able King Philip of Mount Hope, whose eagle eye saw in the march of the "pale-face" the abandonment of cherished hunting-grounds, the obliteration of the wigwam home, and the extinction of his race?

Western (Warren) was incorporated January, 1741. The parallel of  $42^{\circ} 10'$  north, and meridian of  $72^{\circ} 10'$  west, intersect at the south-easterly portion of Bear-Knoll range, and due west of the old, old homestead of Lieut. Hodges. Few towns in Worcester County surpass it in varied scenery. Views of rare loveliness, gems of rural beauty, meet the pleasure-seeker in the many drives. From Bear-Knoll and Long Hill, Colonel's Mountain and Coy's Hill, the prospect extends far and wide. From the summit of the latter, Graylock, the highest land in the State, is seen; Monadnock, in New Hampshire; Grace, in Warwick; Wachusett, in Princeton. The knobs of the Holyoke range, the intervening valleys, the silvery sheen of streams and ponds, the dark outlines of belts of timber, the hills dotted here and there with villages, fill the raptured gaze with delight.

The view from the discontinued road that hugged the side of Cedar Hill, west of the Blair-Foskit house, in West Warren, is highly picturesque, not exceeded by some of the noted gaps or passes in the Blue Ridge. Here, at a glance, may be seen nature in a wild mood, supplemented with man's skill. The Quaboag River passes through the narrow gorge, rushing, dashing, roaring over the rocky bed; on the left bank, the puffing iron horse of the Boston and Albany Railroad, with its long train of merchandise or palace cars instinct with life, winds gracefully around the curve at the base of Graton's Crag. The opening of the valley beyond, with the sloping hills, their wood-crowned summits in the haze of blue, lend weird beauty to this rare landscape.

On the grass-grown road northerly of the pound is a charming view of a New England village nestled amid her hills. The valley is narrow, and the hillsides and summits are studded with buildings both neat and tasteful. On the river banks and Wigwam Brook are located the varied industries. The many trains of the Boston and Albany road wind around the hills, disappear in the cuts, then emerge upon embankments, cross and re-cross the stream six times within four miles, then dash onward through the meadows, an object of untiring attraction, carrying

"The wealth and the lord of earth,  
The thoughts of his God-like mind,  
The wind lags after the flying forth,  
The lightning is left behind."

In the triangulation of the State, a monument was erected on Brown or the Colonel's Mountain. The altitude of this mountain is 1,172 feet, fifty-two feet above Hilliard's Knob on Mount Holyoke. On the summit is a rock eighteen feet high, commanding a view of wide extent. This boulder is characteristic of the drift period.

Many of the old roads over the hills have given place to those in the valleys. Historic "Reed Street" is still used. This elevated road, in bygone years, was a thoroughfare from Boston to the Hudson and Delaware. By the roadside is an old mile-stone, where the weary traveller could read the distance from Boston. May the Reeds guard this antiquated stone from vandal hands, and let it stand as a monument of the ability and patriotism of their ancestors.

A detachment from Gen. Burgoyne's army, after the defeat near Saratoga, marched through this street to the Foster Place, — the site of which is marked by some Lombardy poplars, — up the hill, around "Devil's Elbow" to the famed Cutler tavern stand (T. F. Cutler's residence), down the sand-hill, across the low-lands, the causeway, now submerged by Comins's reservoir, up the steep hill near P. Flannery's to J. B. Gould's and A. A. Burbank's, from thence to West Brookfield and onward to Boston. The night they built their camp-fire in town one of the privates did not answer the roll-call after the reveille; he lived and died in this vicinity.

Gen. George Washington, in going to take command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, passed over this route, halted under an elm near the Keyes-Gould House, and "drank from the bucket that hung in the well."

Not half a decade of years since, underneath this grandly venerable elm, with the harvest-moon shedding its mellow rays over autumn-tinted leaves, stood a sweet singer and pledged her plighted troth. This elm was planted by Col. Keyes, 1750.

The old, old route for the early settlers was from the Baldwin Bridge, south of West Brookfield depot, to Matthew Patrick's (now W. A. Patrick's), to the Gershom Makepeace (yellow) House, with its sentinel-like poplars, past the large boulder incorporated with a stone wall, back of Noah Ashley's (A. A. Burbank's), below the hill near Solomon Keyes' (Mrs. A. Bridges), thence to Daniel Blair's, down the hill to the Damon-Bemis house, across Tufts Brook, up Breakneck Hill to Isaac Gleason's (David Bemis), onward to Isaac Bliss' (S. H. Bliss), from here north of Hubbard Hill and "Steerage Rock" in Brimfield, to King's Crossing (the bridge over the Quaboag), and onward to Fellows' tavern.

This is probably the Indian trail of the Agawams, Woronoaks,\* and other small tribes on the Quonehti-cut (the long, tidal river; the Connecticut is four hundred miles long), who came to the powerful Nipmuck or Nipnet tribe to pay tribute or pass through their wide domains. The old bay-path or road crossed the Quaboag at Brookfield, following somewhat the course of this river and Chiccuppee to Indian Orchard, thence to Agawam. Through this "howling" wilderness Mr. Wm. Pynchon and his small band of brave pioneers marched to found the now beautiful city of Springfield.

This town has an area of about 1,700 acres, with a diversity of soil. From

\* Graylock was among the last, and a noted chief of the Woronoaks. The high peak in the north-western part of the State is named from this war-chief of prowess.

the Cutler Bridge in the upper village a stratum of sand, with slight modifications, extends to Long Island Sound. The local name of the southerly portion of this tract in Warren is indicative of the poverty of the soil. It is said that the islet near the Cutler Bridge was formed by a land-slide from this sand-hill.

Coy's Hill is one of great fertility; but few tracts of land of equal extent, between the Holyoke range and the seacoast, surpass it. The grasses are highly nutritious; the pastures abound with a variety resembling the blue grass of Kentucky; this, with the limpid water of the springs and brooks, gives these fields notoriety among herdsmen. Other parts of the town have good soil and are well adapted to grazing and fruit-culture.

The underlying rock is composed of quartz, feldspar and mica, with iron (ferruginous gneiss). Iolite and adularia are found near Brimfield. The town abounds in durable building-stone. Iron-ore was formerly dug in different parts of the town. A clay-pit was worked near the Cutler Bridge. Opposite Graton's Crag (just within the limits of Palmer) is the Hodges Pool. The water of this mineral spring bears a close resemblance, chemically, to the chalybeate wells of Saratoga.

This town is well watered. Quaboag River is the outlet of Quaboag Pond or Lakelet. It flows sluggishly through the meadows, with a fall of only four feet; when contracted by the Warren hills its velocity is increased. It is estimated that between the Cutler Bridge and West Brimfield the fall averages nearly forty feet to the mile, thus affording many fine water-privileges. The brooks are but little utilized. Bear Knoll range forms a water-shed, the most marked in town. The water of its rills and brooklets makes two courses to Long Island Sound, — on the southerly side, through the Quinebaug and Thames rivers; on the northerly side, through the Quaboag and Connecticut rivers.

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## CHAPTER II.

EARLY SETTLERS AND DOINGS — MINISTERS AND CHURCHES — EDUCATION —  
 COLONIAL WARS — REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS — INSURRECTION OF SHAYS  
 — LATER PASTORS — LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS.

THE love of country, of childhood home, is deeply engraven on memory's tablet. While national achievements ought to be gratefully remembered, it is equally just that the history of our ancestors be not buried in the sands of time.

The pen is inadequate to portray to those, now actors in life's drama, the toil of the early settlers to subdue the unbroken wilderness; the anxiety for the safety of the few domestic animals from the beasts of prey, and the unre-



mitting vigilance for their wily foe. The fortitude, under personal privations incident to remote frontier life, shows a sublime trust in God's abounding love and tender care.

A tract of land, in 1727, was conveyed to Capt. Joseph Kellogg, "for services as interpreter to the Western Indians, many years past, and for several public employments. Praying that the court would consider the same and make him some allowance in their great bounty and goodness." The land is thus described: —

"A platt of 200 acres of land, laid out to Capt. Joseph Kellogg of Fort Dummer,\* by virtue of a grant made him by the Great and General Assembly at their session in the year of 1727. Beginning at a Small red oak tree marked K, standing upon the line on the west side of Brookfield Township across the road from Hadley to Boston, and north 143 rods to a white oak tree, west 184 rods to Col. Pynchon's line & 200 rods from thence, to the first described bound.

"Surveyed by the needle of Instrument & protracted by a scale of 38 perch to an inch.

"Per TIMOTHY DWIGHT *Surveyor* under oath.

"Capt. Thomas Baker & Edward Smith chainmen for the within survey of the within farm of land, made Solemn oath to the true performance of said service.

"JOSEPH JENNINGS *Just. Peace.*"

This was a part of the White farm, also a part of the land on Coy's Hill, owned by Capt. Chester Powers.

The road, or bridle-path, from Boston to Hadley, was to Marlborough, then to Brookfield, — the nearest settlement west, — over the Bowman Stone Hill, down the Coney Hill through the forest, past the Babcock Tavern to a camping-ground, — Cold Spring, now in Belchertown, — thence, guided by blazed trees, through the wilderness to Hadley Meadows.

The first town meeting, after the incorporation of Western (Warren), was held March 8, 1741. Noah Ashley was chosen moderator. The other officers were Matthew Beal, Peter Rice, Solomon Keyes, Nathaniel Reed, and Benjamin Davis.

November, 1742, Gershom Makepeace, Peter Rice, and David Blair were chosen to buy one acre of land of Solomon Keyes, on Comey's Hill (east and near Patrick Flannery's), for the site of the town meeting-house.

May, 1743, Noah Ashley, Nathaniel Reed, Solomon Keyes, and James Whitcomb were chosen a committee for building the town meeting-house, "to be 45×35 feet, and 20 ft. 6 inches from sill to plate."

September, 1743, "Voted to raise by tax on land, one hundred pounds, old tenor, for preaching now to come; also, voted forty pounds old tenor for schooling."

\* This fort was built on the Connecticut River, north of the State line, by Capt. Kellogg; it was garrisoned by Capt. Timothy Dwight and fifty-five men.

July 9, 1744, a town meeting was called, "to see if the town would agree to keep a day of fasting and prayer to God, for direction in calling a suitable person to the work of the ministry. Voted to keep Thursday, July 19th, as a day of fasting and prayer." Fasting then was not a mere form, but the abstinence, of those in health, from food, from "the rising of the sun, to the going down thereof."

The Puritan and Pilgrim Fathers had "faith in a personal God," to whom were referred their duties, not only spiritual but temporal, in founding a home for themselves and their children. They taught a higher law than, we fear, now generally rules the actions of men. They had not one code of laws for the Sabbath and another code of morals for business. Unbending integrity between man and man gave strength to the Puritan and a noble copy for the sons of to-day.

The first preacher, after the incorporation of Western, was Rev. Thomas Strong. The first recorded solemnized marriage was of Josiah Putnam to Lydia Wheeler, Jan. 15, 1740-41; first recorded birth, Martin, born Feb. 26, 1741, son of Benj. and Hannah Brooks; first church sexton, John Barrows; first physician, Dr. Obadiah Wood. The first settled minister was Rev. Isaac Jones, who remained with his increasing flock nearly forty years, when the Good Shepherd received him into his fold.

February, 1744. "Voted to hire two months' schooling." The school following so closely the preaching of the gospel, illustrates the early settlers' devotion to religion and to education, that moral and mental culture should go hand in hand. With the echoes of the pioneer's axe daily went up the breathings of the soul's desire to the Father in heaven. The Bible was their chart of life; Christ the beacon-light that guided them to the haven of eternal rest.

November, 1745. "Voted to build a school-house 20 by 17 feet, having a Dutch chimney at each end." This house was on the old, old road between J. B. Gould's and A. A. Burbank's. "Voted to pay eight pounds for boarding the schoolmaster eight weeks."

1745. "Voted to raise fifty pounds, old tenor, for powder, lead and flints." At this time occurred King George's war, which involved the Colonial possessions in America. The French had almost an impregnable fortress at Louisburg (Isle of Cape Breton), where privateers were fitted out, that preyed on the coasting vessels of New England. Gen. William Pepperell, with a force, mostly New England troops, aided by the English fleet under Sir Peter Warren, captured this stronghold.

The "Old French War," which was begun in 1753, lasted more than eight years. Troops were often called for by the Provincial governors. Capt. Solomon Keyes, who had years before fought in the Indian warfare at Lovell's Pond, in Fryeburg, Me., again shouldered his gun, taking with him his son Solomon. They went to Lake George, in New York, 1755. Capt. Keyes was killed in battle, and his son mortally wounded. John Dearborn's large

powder-horn, corresponding in size with the flint-lock gun, is all that is left to tell his service in this war. Other soldiers went to Canada, as their polls were abated one year.

Time and the plowshare have removed all vestige of the French fort that stood in the Jocelyn-Powers lot, next to the Rich field. It commanded an unobstructed view of Brookfield Plain. This was a part of the line of defence erected to protect the western and northern settlements of New England against French and Indian hostilities.

Jan. 3, 1757. "Voted to repay Capt. Thomas Cutler for moneys paid to the Provincial treasurer for the soldiers' rates."

In 1759-60 Lord Amherst, commander of the Colonial forces, in marching to Crown Point, from thence to Quebec, to join Gen. Wolfe, encamped a night on the field near "Devil's Elbow" with ten thousand men.

In 1762 the small-pox raged in town. One of the recorded deaths and burials is that of Henry White.

The curtain now drops upon Colonial events and allegiance to the English crown. It again rises to present new scenes in the important drama of American history. England, by her wars, was deeply in debt. It was affirmed that Parliament possessed the inherent right to tax the Colonies without representation. There were the sugar, tea, stamp and other acts.

On account of the unjust taxation, covenants were signed by the people not to buy articles of British manufacture or East India goods. "The lamps of industry and economy were lighted." Families that had worn silk and broad-cloth now dressed in homespun woolen and the products of flax. The luxuries were only those produced in America. After the noted tea-party in Boston Harbor in 1773, the few that had the fragrant herb hidden in their caddies watched the windows, fearing detection from a neighborly call, and the teapot was closely covered while making the delicious decoction.

January, 1774, the town of Western (Warren) adopted the following resolution: —

"Loyalty and true allegiance to His Majesty, King George the Third, we heartily and Sincerely profess, and will yield a cheerful and ready obedience to all just laws; and a hearty friendship with our mother Country we wish may be continued; but our just rights and privileges for which our forefathers endured the greatest hardships, and sacrificed their lives, we cannot give up and submit to be Slaves."

Distrust of the government over them, and the dissatisfaction with the taxes imposed, led the people to take measures conducive to the public weal. The political sky at this time was at least nebulous. September, 1773. "Voted to raise a number of men to meet and be instructed in the military science of using fire-arms; also, to procure the enlistment of these 'minute' men. By order of Col. Danforth Keyes, these men were paid thirty pounds."

September, 1774. "Voted that Maj. Gershom Makepeace represent the town at the Provincial Congress to be holden October, 1774, at Concord."



The war-cloud, that had for months been gathering over the Colonies, now environed Boston and the adjacent towns. Its fury was first spent at Lexington and Concord, April 18, 1775.\* The tidings of the attack went from place to place as fast as the "Paul Reveres" could ride. A regiment of troops from this and adjoining towns, commanded by Col. Danforth Keyes, marched in hot haste to the scene of strife. Maj. Reuben Reed, another townsman, marched with a regiment of minute-men, raised under the command of Maj. Gen. Ward. These regiments participated in the battle at Bunker Hill. After Burgoyne's defeat, Gen. Heath detailed Maj. Reed to guard the Hessians and British troops then prisoners of war at Cambridge. Subsequently, Col. Keyes led a body of troops to Tiverton, R. I., to give aid to Gen. Sullivan.

In July, 1777, Lieut. William Cowee received orders from Maj. Bowman of New Braintree to march hastily to Manchester, Vt. (near Bennington). "The said Bowman will meet him at Hadley, with teams to carry the packs." Nine men went with Lieut. Cowee; viz., Samuel Patrick, Nathan Blodgett, William Stone, Frederick Foster, James Blair, James Blackmore, John McAllister (Collister), David Clark, and Eben Baker. October, 1777. "Voted to allow each man that went northward with Lieut. Cowee six pounds each man † a month."

Other enlisted men, whose long absence from all that was dear at home, buffeting the snows and icy blasts of winter, with insufficient clothing and sometimes food, live only in the fireside stories of their children's children, but the recording angel has registered their names and their heroism.

In 1786, Daniel Shays, a private who was promoted to a captaincy for bravery in the Revolutionary war, seeing "the poor made poorer" by unjust laws, in an obscure tavern of a Mr. Conkey, in Pelham, kindled the latent fires of discontent among the yeomen of the hills.

The high taxes incident from so long a war, and the extortions of lawyers in collecting debts, induced this daring leader and his followers to make bold movements against the courts of the State as well as against the military power. Never were a people in a riper state for a rebellion. Had Shays possessed the reserve power that copes with emergencies, that leads the forlorn hope, Gens. Shepard and Lincoln would not so readily have crushed the revolt. The insurgents marched through this town in 1787 under a military escort.

Hon. Nathan Reed, son of Maj. Reuben Reed, graduated at Harvard University in 1781. He was an excellent linguist, particularly in Hebrew, and had rare knowledge of the arts and sciences of that day. His inventive genius was of a high order. In 1797 he invented the nail machine, now in general use, that cuts and heads nails and spikes at one operation.

\* The spring of 1775 was one remarkably early; when the troops marched to join the forces around Boston, the rye was waving in the bland breeze, the cherry, pear and peach trees in bloom, but the 19th of April "was windy and cold."

† So in the record.

"Mr. Reed was the first who ever made a successful application of steam-power to the purposes of navigation, and first to invent and construct a locomotive-engine or steam-carriage. In 1789, *eighteen years* before Fulton appeared with his experiment upon the Hudson, he made a small steamer upon the same plan and principles of the boats of to-day." With it he crossed an estuary that separates Danvers from Beverly. The winter of 1790 was spent in New York, and he there showed Gen. Stevens his drawings, and explained the principles on which his boat was constructed; combining the *tubular* boiler, which he had invented, with paddle-wheels and the double-acting rotary-engine of Watt. In 1807 the "Clermont" skimmed up the Hudson, fitted up with boilers, paddle-wheels, and the Watt engine. Mr. Stevens's great wealth did what Mr. Reed's lank purse could not. The patent law was then in its infancy. He improved and invented many agricultural implements. From 1800 to 1803 he was a member of Congress from Essex South District, Massachusetts. In 1807 he was chosen chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas in Hancock County, Me., and died in Belfast, 1849, in the ninetieth year of his age.

In 1791, Rev. Stephen Baxter succeeded Rev. I. Jones. During his pastorate, the second meeting-house, after much discussion and opposition, was built at the west end of the park; the buttonwood tree lent its grateful shade to the unblinded southerly windows; all else is changed. Thanksgiving Day, 1797, the first public service in the new meeting-house was held. Mr. Baxter was decidedly a liberal preacher.\*

Those who remained at home, bearing the public burdens, who had unflinchingly braved the discontents arising from the State paying by tax her share of the forty millions debt incurred by the Revolutionary war, have silently fallen, one by one, like the needles of the pine, and their places, as silently, have been filled by younger life. Their sterling common-sense, their stoicism, combined with tenderness, we hope, has been transmitted from father to son. The descendants in town, of Peregrine White, of John Alden and Priscilla Mullens, and other lineal descendants of the Pilgrim fathers, who came in the "Mayflower," and those in whose veins run the blood of Revolutionary heroes, may they cherish and carefully guard the relics so rich in legendary lore.

The soldier and the citizen having outrode the panic of 1779, which caused untold distress by the unheard-of depreciation of Continental money, or bills of credit, home improvements now began. Trade and commerce were flourishing. About 1800, J. Field and I. Moore, young men of executive ability, wished still further to improve the durable water-power in the lower village. By the unusual liberality of an early settler (Mr. John Patrick), who lent them

\* Mrs. Baxter's beauty of face and form, with the grace and elegant mannerism of the olden school, even after the windows of her soul were closed, is still remembered. Copley painted her youthful face, and carried the portrait to England, to gratify a nobleman's wish to see the type of a New England belle.



money without interest, they enlarged the iron-works, and increased their wealth.

The commissioners to establish a United States arsenal selected this water-power, also the hill over which High Street is laid, for the arsenal grounds. But political and other influences carried the works to Springfield.

1804. Gen. Eaton of Brimfield conceived the bold plan of placing the exiled Hamet on the throne of Tripoli, and with five hundred Arabs and Greeks, and nine Americans, captured the city of Derne. "Major" Andrus, over whose door, so many years, hung the sign of the Shears and Goose, accompanied him in this perilous but successful expedition.

1806. Rev. Sylvester Burt, an able preacher and social pastor, was settled. During his incumbency, politics were on stilts. The Jeffersonian Democrats and the Federalists, in many instances, were bitterly opposed to each other. The men of the "city" (the upper village, with its ten or twelve families) drew tight party lines with such land-owners as the Tylers and Lieut. Hodges. Even fathers changed legal documents, because their sons and heirs did not vote the same ticket with them.

In 1812 the powder-mills were built, on the flat where the steam-pump works are located. These buildings were destroyed in 1826. Mr. Curtis survived the explosion a few hours.

This year the second war with Great Britain was declared. The military company of this town was ordered to Boston, and in a short time returned home, by orders of Gov. Strong. Ironically, it was called in the State, Gov. Strong's war.

1815. Cotton yarn was manufactured in the present warp-mill of L. J. Knowles. The yarn was sent to Boston; also, bought for the hand-loom, in the farmers' kitchens, as warp for wool and tow filling, in the manufacture of home fabrics. 1822, the power-loom was introduced, and "factory cloth" was the result. The venerable Mr. Copeland is the only survivor of the first workmen in this early cotton-mill.

1818. The first woolen-mill, or rather clothiers' shop, was burned and again rebuilt. The first power-loom, for weaving woolen goods, was introduced by Ellis & Powers, in 1828. This mill, after improvements, was burnt in 1850; then re-built and much enlarged. It was bought in 1854 by Messrs. Sibley & Knowles. In 1864 Mr. S. H. Sibley erected the fine brick building which covers a part of the site of the old, old shop.

Another woolen-mill, on a part of the site of the recently built town hall, was swept away in 1839, by a breakage in the dam across Wigwam Brook.

The several large mills in West Warren manufacture cotton goods in various styles. This, pre-eminently, is the mill village of the town. The assessed value of these mills is \$500,000. The employés in these works are 475.



## CHAPTER III.

IRON MANUFACTURE—OTHER INDUSTRIES—RECENT CHURCHES—LOCAL NOTES  
—ANTI-SLAVERY ACTION—AN EMIGRANT STORY—THE CIVIL WAR—  
ENLISTED MEN—MANUFACTURES—AGRICULTURE—DEVELOPMENTS AND  
CHANGES.

IRON, in various ways, has been worked in town since 1746. A furnace formerly stood near the elm that overshadows the Burns house; hence the name Furnace Hill. Elijah Lombard had a shop between Maple Street and the bridge. The Messrs. Chapin & Batchelders subsequently manufactured scythes in this shop. L. Bridge's shop alone remains of the iron-works in this locality. Memory photographs the dark, cavernous coal-sheds connected with these works, that the children passed so nimbly, when the shades of evening prevailed. In the lower village Messrs. Field and Moore made pig-iron, also scythes. L. Trowbridge had a forge at West Warren in 1840. At different periods, scythes have been extensively manufactured in this village, by Wm. Richardson, Wm. Taft, P. Whipple, and the Crossmans.

A. W. Crossman, who has contributed much to the building up of West Warren, makes shaves and chisels. These works are assessed at \$25,000. Also, large quantities of brick are made by A. W. Crossman & Sons, in West Brimfield.

The village blacksmith, in by-gone years, was an "institution," an important personage; he not only repaired but fashioned much that is now done with machinery. An artisan like Shubael Butterworth is seldom seen hammering at the anvil, in a wayside shop.

The tannery of Nathan Hathaway was on Maple Street, between Wigwam Brook and the railroad crossing. H. B. Bosworth's tannery is now converted into tenements. The old potash structure on North Street is also a tenement. The Fuller and Powers-Smith houses are the very oldest buildings in town. The site of Fairbanks & Newton's store was occupied by a low red building, in which Daniel Holt kept store. This was less pretentious than the Mayo store, where the post-office is now located. On the Harwood site dwelt and worked the once noted clockmaker, Winslow. A few of these clocks are extant. The Bond, or Dr. Holland house, with its many associations, is gone; not even the stone-engraver Sykes is left, to record its place on the enduring marble.

Among the lost or changed occupations are the drover and the chimney-sweep. The cattle-yards connected with the Carpenter-Hitchcock tavern occupied the grounds about the depot. The fur-hat shop of J. S. Davis was formerly where the Wm. Ward house stands. The Samuel Bascom stage tavern was the Copeland house, near the railroad crossing. The Chapin-Gaylord, or Dr. Carpenter house, has been remodeled.

Since the cars carried freight to Boston, the streets of the "city" no longer echo with the clatter of the covered wagon; and the voice of teamster Wadkins, urging on his worn-out horses, is hushed.

Before the advent of railroads, the clanking hoof and horn announced the arrival of the stage-coach over the turnpike road, from Albany to Boston. The stage-driver was both mail and express messenger. The road was over S. H. Sibley's hill, past the finely-located farm of J. Blair, the hip-roofed school-house, with its small-paned, high windows, and the J. Patrick and S. Blair farms, through West Warren, over the hills above the Pool, to Frink's tavern, in Palmertown.

The Northampton stage-coach crossed the Lamberton bridge, in Ware, past the Reuben Shaw tavern, over the old, narrow, rocky road (a part of the road from West Warren to Ware) to the Stanford house, near A. W. Crossman's, thence onward to Worcester.

At this period, the spinning-jenny and power-loom had superseded the spinning-wheel and hand-loom. Hackels, hand-cards, foot-wheel and distaff, too, were consigned to the attic. The days of setting card-teeth were also numbered with the past industries. In 1830 the braiding of palm-leaf hats was introduced.

1820. Maine, a province of Massachusetts, became an independent State. Capt. Chester Powers was chosen to represent the town at the Convention for the amendment of the Constitution, which occurred this year.

The First Universalist Church was built at Hodges Corner, or South Warren, in 1821. The Second Universalist Church on the hill, between the villages, was built by William Howe in 1837. The pleasing proportions of this building, the plain but tasteful finish, and the faultless symmetry of the tower that surmounts it, are indexes of the skill and fine taste of the builder.\*

The Rev. Munson C. Gaylord was dismissed in 1828, after a pastorate of twelve years. Near the close of his ministration, the temperance wave broke over both church and society. In those days, it was a breach of etiquette, a downright inhospitality, not to offer wine or some distilled spirit to guests, particularly when the minister called. Clergy and laity both indulged in the cup that cheers and inebriates; even bearers must "take a drink" before they removed their coffined neighbor from the sorrowing house. Mr. Gaylord and his accomplished wife saw the "trail of the serpent" in their flock, and bravely battled the giant evil. The first president of the Temperance Society was Isaac Patrick, Esq. As a presiding officer, he had no peer in town.

Owing to the frequency of mis-sent postal matter to Weston, Middlesex Co., the name of Western was changed by the legislature of 1834 to Warren, in honor of Gen. Joseph Warren, who fell at Bunker Hill.

\* The Howe truss, for bridges and roofs, was invented while he lived in town, near the Pump-works. The first bridge for trial was thrown across the river near A. W. Crossman's, edge-tool manufacturer.



Rev. George Trask, of anti-tobacco fame, was installed over the Congregational church in 1836. The next year the meeting-house was moved across the road, also back on the hillside, and extensively remodeled. In 1873 this church edifice was again repaired and modernized, and on the 29th of April, 1874, it was burnt by an explosion of gas, the sexton, H. A. Tidd, escaping with severe burns. The present structure on the same ground, for convenience, for architectural design and elegant finish, is scarcely equaled by any country church in this vicinity. Mr. Trask instilled into the inhabitants of the town a desire to make the school-houses and grounds more attractive. The farmers, at much expense, had educated their children at academies in other towns.

Mrs. T. Lombard (a grand-daughter of the early settler, James Brown) gave land on Furnace Hill for educational purposes. A joint-stock company was formed, and Quaboag Seminary was built in 1842. In September, Daniel Powers, A. M., of Yale's famed class of '37, and a townsman, gave the dedicatory address. The first principal was Joshua Pearl, A. M., who was well fitted to build up a school. It was well patronized, and a popular educational institution. In 1856 the town bought the building, and the Warren high and grammar schools are there located. Another grammar school is taught in West Warren.

The passage of the Western Railroad through the town was an epoch in its history. Warren awoke from its Van Winkle sleep; the farms became more valuable; trade ran in new arteries. By the energy of J. Moore, his store was a mart of trade for the surrounding towns. Gypsum, or plaster of Paris, was ground, and large quantities were carried into Hampshire and Hampden counties. New buildings were tastefully built, new faces, new life changed the plodding paths of the former years. The first train of cars passed through the villages to Springfield in October, 1839.

The Rev. Isaac Bliss, a native of Warren, and a graduate of Amherst College, sailed in 1837 for the Sandwich Islands. The journey then, to these islands in the South Pacific, was no pleasure-trip of sixteen or eighteen days, across the continent in palace cars, and over the bounding billows in steamships; but by sailing vessels around Cape Horn, perhaps lying becalmed, or braving the ocean storms and currents for months.

A noticeable event occurred in town in 1843. A young girl, whose father had been a slave, sailed under the auspices of the A. B. C. F. missions to instruct her race in Liberia. Miss Johnson had a dignified mien, a winsome and intellectual face; her good scholarship, combined with Christian zeal, admirably fitted her for this African mission. She sleeps under the palm-tree shade.

In 1853, the oldest religious society in town was pro-slavery in action. In both church and society, a few felt their anti-slavery rights disregarded, and seceded. The Methodist Episcopal Church was formed from this nucleus and a few resident Methodists. They held their services in Union Hall until the erection of their church in 1863.



In 1854 John Ross and family, with others from this town, emigrated to Kansas. The South, in 1855, determined to extend over these beautiful prairies the blight of slavery. In 1856 two armed companies left Worcester to aid the Free State settlers against the invasions from Missouri and the armed companies from the South. The first Worcester company took a steamer from St. Louis to Kansas City. At Lexington, Mo., cannon were in range of the landing to give the "Yank abolitionist a warm welcome," but night aided the steamer in getting beyond their range. Arrived at Liberty Landing in early morning, on shore were a large body of men, and, during their night vigils for the steamer ("Sultan"), they had taken spirits down to keep spirits up; consequently, too drunk to board the steamer. One cannon-ball grazed the helm and splashed water on the stern deck. At Kansas City, the emigrants were not permitted to land, but were robbed of rifles, pistols, tents and provisions. The "Border Ruffians" remained on the boat as guard, also to prevent a landing at Leavenworth. Col. Bledsoe did permit one man to go to the fort (on the flagstaff, the stars and stripes, the national emblem of the *free*, were gracefully floating in the breeze), but the commandant utterly refused to aid the emigrants to land. . . . The prow of the boat was turned down the river. At Parkville, more Blue Lodge men came on board. McLean, a brawny Scotchman, came into the gentlemen's cabin, to order the captain of the Worcester Company "to walk the plank." His wife, a native of Warren, stood, so that a pistol shot would first strike her. McLean then entered the ladies' cabin to drag him out; her blanched face, and a few appeals as husband, father, and his home among the Highlands, caused the seemingly brutal man to relent from executing the death mission. Taking from his bosom the miniature of his wife and child, he said, "Your husband may remain with you; God bless you," and departed with his men.

From St. Louis the company took steamer to Davenport, Iowa; then across this State and a portion of Nebraska to Kansas, with ox and mule teams. Next it was necessary to get flour; also to send letters to Chicago, Gov. Salmon P. Chase, Senator Charles Sumner and others. A lady of the company was asked to make the attempt, from her familiarity with Southern phrases, for to be known you were from Massachusetts, as had been two messengers who left the week before, was death. To reach alone a St. Louis steamer through the Shawnee Reserve, was more hazardous than the northern route; both were full of peril. To the "watchful eye that never sleeps," and the fidelity of the three drivers of the United States mail; in particular, the risks run by the youthful Missourian who drove through Westport, — this lady is indebted for her life. On her return to Warren, the people were loth to believe that the mutterings of the Great Rebellion were already sweeping over the virgin soil of Kansas.

The tidings of the attack upon Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor reached New England April, 1861. Who has forgotten the intense thrill that ran through

every lover of the Union at the North, as the telegraph transmitted the dire message; and the great amazement to not a few, who had thought that the South would never proceed to extremities? When the alternative was forced on the government, war or final dismemberment of the South from the North, many then thought that three months' service was all that need be provided for, that the *presence* of the northern army would intimidate the rebellious, misled Southron. But what was the true condition? Instead of brothers who had been nurtured and protected by the same foster-mother, — the Union, — were found an unrelenting, persistent foe.

War meetings were called. In the sons were kindled the fires that once burned in the hearts of their Revolutionary ancestors. The Tories of those days were duplicated in these hours of trial.

In May, 1861, Albert W. Powers (afterwards captain) was the first to enlist for three years, if needed that length of time; and others wrote their names the same evening. These enlisted men joined the 2d Massachusetts regiment of volunteers. Before August others joined the 2d, the 10th, the 15th and the 21st regiments. Dr. Calvin Cutter was surgeon of the 21st regiment; afterwards on Gen. Reno's staff and a brigade-surgeon in the Ninth Army Corps. In June, 1862, Dr. J. W. Hastings became assistant-surgeon of the same regiment. He was transferred in May, 1863, to the 33d regiment Massachusetts volunteers to become the surgeon, and was in the "march of Gen. W. T. Sherman to the sea." Serg't Charles Plummer Tidd, one of the few of John Brown's men who escaped from Harper's Ferry over the Alleghany Mountains, for whose arrest Gov. Wise of Virginia offered one thousand dollars, came to Warren, resided and enlisted with his Kansas captain (Dr. Cutter) in the 21st regiment Massachusetts volunteers. He died on the eve of the battle of Roanoke, his dirge the cannon's roar, his requiem the battle strife. This intrepid soldier braved danger and obloquy to aid in breaking the bonds of three millions of God's children.

Did space permit, each and all who enlisted from Warren, when the defiant Southron attempted to drive the eagle from its northern eyrie, should have mention of gallantry displayed in the many hard-fought battles from Gettysburg to the Gulf, from the Red River of the South to the shore wave-washed by the Atlantic. The toil and hardships endured on the march and in camp, the suffering in hospitals, the fortitude of those who came home to linger, to die, are not forgotten.

May the memory of Cutler, Bemis, Hartnett and Wiswall be kept green by their surviving comrades. These brave young men yielded up life from noxious filth and starvation in the Andersonville stockade. Those that sleep in the soldier's grave far, far away, are missed and mourned at home. A silent tear to the memory of one who sleeps where the magnolia blooms, and overhanging vines bend down and kiss her lonely grave.\*

\* Carrie E., daughter of Surgeon C. Cutter.



*Names of Enlisted Men from Warren in the Rebellion.*—A. W. Powers (captain), Owen Tiffany, Alfred Stephens, Chauncey Peck (killed near Manchester, Va.), Philo Peck (killed at Gettysburg, Pa.), Wm. Cowles (lost on the "Juniata"), G. H. Crouch, Roswell Stone (died from wounds), A. A. Marsh, Ephraim Carey, Dan'l Carr, Isaac Gilbert, Ira Thompson, Chas. S. Chapin, M. Walsh, O. E. Nelson, Horatio Tower, Albert Peck, O. Rumrell, Calvin Cutter (surgeon), J. W. Hastings (surgeon), A. Wilson, E. J. Wright, Chas. Bemis (died at Andersonville), Dan'l Bliss, Chas. H. Bliss, A. R. Caswell, H. B. Stone, J. C. Brooks, E. C. Morgan, J. C. Griggs, J. P. Johnson, Chas. Durant, A. Taft, F. H. Moore, J. Harvey, J. McCullough, C. S. Robinson, G. W. Nichols, J. C. Marshall, J. S. Tidd, W. Bliss, E. Cole, Jr., A. Walker, S. Dunham, E. H. S. Wilson, W. H. Shepard, T. Bryant, Giles Blodgett, Albert Bliss, A. D. Bond, C. F. Bosworth, E. H. Cutler, E. Ryecroft, G. H. Shepard, J. W. Shepard, —Lovegrove, Chas. Johnson, D. Blanding, D. Brownell, C. E. Damon, J. Shaw, L. Wright, H. Merriam, Amos Bliss, G. H. Jennings, C. Chickering, W. P. Butterworth, A. L. Switzer, P. Burk, W. Sibley, E. P. Hale, W. H. Washburn, W. W. Cummings, S. H. Lincoln, W. M. Fay, L. Gilbert, J. W. Wiswall (at Salisbury prison), A. Aldrich (at Salisbury prison), T. Dodge, W. Foley, L. Gravelle, E. May, James O'Neil, John O'Neal, F. Sherman, W. C. Hitchcock, A. A. Brooks, N. C. Burbank, C. H. Crossman, P. Ward, McIntosh, H. Ball, W. Smith, E. Sullivan, C. F. Cutler (at Andersonville), \* C. H. Barrett, \* O. J. Carroll, \* W. Carter, \* A. Bonney, \* C. Burns, \* A. Packard, S. W. Cook, \* J. Mahoney, M. Wadkins, \* E. Smith, O. Marsh, Geo. Bliss, C. B. Harback, Strickland, Hartnett (at Andersonville), Butler, G. Ellis, Nevens, Wood, L. Gilbert, Marsh, Brooks, A. E. Esau, G. T. Lincoln, Woodworth, M. Bliss, R. Harris, Gilbert, Benway.

Boots and shoes in different styles have been manufactured since 1855. New shops and new firms have arisen, and steadily more capital has been invested, until it has become one of the leading industries. Messrs. Tripp & Haselwood, W. B. Ramsdell, and C. Moore are the present manufacturers.

The Moore Excelsior Ink began to be manufactured in 1868. The manufacture of laundry blueing was added to this enterprise in 1865. At Quaboag village is the shoddy-mill of Mr. Keeny.

The Dean grist-mill is venerable with age; its first lease extended ninety-nine years. The J. B. Gould mill, if measured by the mile-stones of life, would exceed a hundred years. The upper and nether millstones have ground on, while several owners have passed the pearly gate. An extensive grain business is done at this mill. The Moore grist-mill, in the lower village (now removed), for many years was the leading mill in this immediate vicinity. J. B. Gould & Co. also deal in coal.

In 1861 Mr. L. J. Knowles began to manufacture, in a modest way, his noted steam-pumps. Mr. E. F. Strickland, who still remains at the works, and one assistant, manufactured for the then market. Now, the works employ one hundred and thirty men. The sales are many thousand dollars yearly. These works are being consolidated with another firm. The pumps

\* Other than Warren men.



are known in Europe and Australia, and used with much favor in the United States. This invention, with others from his fertile brain, gives him no inferior rank as a mechanician. The employment of superintendents of moral rectitude and Christian character has elevated the standard of the skilled mechanic, and given a higher tone to the aspirations of the young men in his employ. To the liberality of Mr. Knowles and his workmen the village and town have been greatly improved.

The Congregational church was built in West Warren, in 1869. The Roman Catholics, in 1872, built their large church in this village. This sect also holds meetings in Warren.

The Methodists have a church in the process of erection, which, when completed, will be an added ornament to the many new buildings on this plain.

The several halls, in both villages, accommodate the public assemblies, as well as the public and secret societies. From the pavilion stand, in the park, the citizens are regaled by the silvery tones of the cornet, and harmony of other wind instruments, with the deep-stirring, soul-inspiring beat of drums. The fountain enclosure was built 1878: may its utility or embellishment be appreciated.

The fire companies, in the villages, are unusually well equipped with means of preventing a conflagration. The farmers are distinguished more for the equalization of wealth, than the excelling of a few very rich land-owners. Their houses are large, and many are attractive. The farm implements and products, within the ample barns and sheds, show the intelligence and thrift of the owners. The facility for transporting milk, nearly a thousand gallons being sent daily to Boston, is one of the great resources of the industrious, painstaking tiller of the soil.

The Worcester County Cheese Factory was one of the earliest established in this vicinity. Another cheese factory is located in South Warren. Table butter is made a specialty in a few of the farm-houses, while the tub butter is furnished from other sources. The herds of cows are selected more in reference to the quantity than the quality of the milk. But few choice cattle are raised in town.

The names of the farmers who live on the ancestral lands are the following:—S. H. Bliss, T. F. Cutler & Son, Vernon Reed, D. Rich, J. T. Combs, D. Shepard & Son, W. A. Patrick & Son, Sofron Switzer, and Mrs. Joseph Cutler (sixth generation); also, those who bear the names of their kin, and very early settlers of the town:—Blair, Brooks, Burroughs, Cowee, Damon Gleason, Gray, Keyes, Tidd, Tyler and Chadwick. The earliest settler in West Warren, was Obadiah Cooley, then in Kingstown.

The occasional visitor, or a son of Warren come back after years of absence to the old homestead, cannot fail to observe with pride the somewhat ornate brick structure on the site of the dilapidated saw-mill, that always was more useful than ornamental. The building of this town house with its hall and commo-

dious rooms, 1878, shows the thrift of Warren. The hall was dedicated Feb. 5, 1879. The address was written by the Rev. N. P. Pierce, D. D. Underneath the hall is a large, well-lighted room, for the Free Public Library and reading-room. By the untiring energy of Nathan Richardson, Esq., also his munificence, as well as the liberality of others, the town will soon have a large and well-selected library. The advantages of a free public library cannot be over-estimated. The studious youth and the reading citizen will find in the many volumes new facts communicated, thought induced, the taste cultivated, while the memory will be invigorated, the judgment strengthened, and the soul expanded.

From the living we will turn to the "silent city of the dead," and mention a few of the citizens who have left footprints as they passed.

Dr. E. Willard, a lineal descendant of Maj. Willard of Colonial days, a prominent member of the Mount Carmel Lodge of Freemasons, then in Warren. Dr. Cyrus Hutchins, beside his medical skill, was deeply interested in the district schools and small town library. Daniel HITCHCOCK, Esq., for many years the postmaster and librarian. The planting of shade-trees, to beautify the home and street, is his living monument. David Kimball, A. M., a successful instructor, and an ardent lover of the book of nature. Daniel Powers, A. M., was senior tutor in Yale College at the time of his early death. Nathan Richardson, author of the "Modern School for the Piano-forte." He died before his work had attained its popularity and success. Dr. Calvin Cutter, A. M., author of "Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene," now used in the five grand divisions of the globe; translated into seven dialects, and printed in raised letters for the blind. Dr. Nelson Carpenter, A. M., foremost in laudable reforms and a successful practitioner. Dr. Harvey S. Carpenter, whose early promise for great usefulness was blighted by mental disease. Dr. L. Warriner, beside his medical education, was one of the early professional dentists.

A slate slab marks the grave of Nicholas Brown, a chaplain in the English army, —

— "who rests from the two-fold strife,—  
The battle-field of armies, and the battle-field of life."

A cenotaph in the old portion of "God's Acre" is a monument to the dauntless warrior, Solomon Keyes. Another is commemorative of Noah Ashley. The heroes of the Revolution, the martyr dead of the Rebellion sleep in consecrated graves.

These mothers who moulded the plastic minds of past generations, these fathers scarred with the combats of life, though unknown to fame, have quietly filled their allotted spheres in life, nor are their ennobling energies now buried beneath the rubbish of time. The marble stood waiting, the Great Sculptor carved the plaudit, "Well done, good and faithful servants."

## WEBSTER.

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BY FREDERICK D. BROWN, M. D.

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## CHAPTER I.

A MODERN TOWN — ORIGIN AND FORMATION — SOIL AND NATURAL FEATURES — WATER SYSTEM — MUNICIPAL ACTION — STATISTICS — BAPTIST CHURCH — METHODIST, CONGREGATIONAL, CATHOLIC AND OTHER CHURCHES.

WEBSTER was incorporated March 6, 1832, and so called in honor of Daniel Webster. The territory was taken from the towns of Oxford and Dudley, together with a large tract of land known as "Oxford South Gore," not included in any township, although a part of Worcester County. Another tract "belonging to the Pegan Indians (a remnant of the ancient Nipmucks) was also included, which was a possession conceded to these Indians by the town of Dudley for their relinquishment of certain rights to land on Dudley Hill, known as Black James & Co.'s grant, surveyed to them in 1684."

The settlement of boundaries of the town was for some time after its incorporation a source of much controversy, but these were finally established, in 1841, as follows: The Connecticut State line forms the southern boundary; the town of Douglas the eastern; the town of Oxford the northern; the French River and the town of Dudley the Western. It is a small township, not exceeding four miles in length, north and south, and three and a half in width. Its area is fourteen square miles, or about nine thousand acres. The distance from Boston is fifty-five miles west-south-west, and its latitude is  $41^{\circ} 56'$  north, and longitude  $5^{\circ} 10'$  east from Washington.

The surface of Webster is agreeably diversified by hills and plains. The soil is naturally poor, very rocky and unproductive, but patient industry has produced a wonderful change over much of this once barren and benighted region, so that now the eye is charmed by the sight of broad, undulating fields in a high state of cultivation.

Near the centre of the town, at the base of a range of hills, lies as picturesque a lake as can be found in New England. From Bear Hill, the highest point in this range, the landscape spread out to view is extremely beautiful. Directly before us, at the foot of a rapid declivity, lie the tranquil waters,



dotted here and there with charming islands covered with a mass of green shrubs and vines, or the heavier growth of timber, which all appear to start from the water's edge, and contrast beautifully with the silvery ripples of the margin. The bold headlands and retiring inlets, from whose varied shades of green peer half-hidden cottages, the background of distant hills with an occasional spire, present, indeed, a charming picture.

This lake is known as "Chaubunagungamaug,"\* a name given it by the Indians whose villages were situated upon or near its shores. It covers an area of over 1,200 acres, or a little more than a seventh part of the whole territory of the town. At the North Village the waters are discharged into the French, or as called by the Indians, Maänexit River, a stream having its source in Leicester, and forming the dividing line between Webster and Dudley. It received the name of French River from a band of Huguenots who fled from France and settled in Oxford, near its banks. The meaning of the Indian name is not known. It is a constant and never-failing stream, and furnishes an abundance of power to the numerous manufactories situated along its banks. After a winding course it unites with the Quinebaug, and goes to form the Thames at Norwich, Conn., which flows into Long Island Sound at New London.

Webster is distinguished for its excellent roads, its substantial bridges, and the pleasing variety of its natural scenery. Four villages, namely, "North," "South," "East" and "Depot," all within a radius of one mile, contain nearly all the population of the town.

The first town meeting for the choice of officers was held April 2, 1832. Jonathan Day was chosen moderator and Charles Baldwin clerk. The following officers were elected: George B. Slater, John H. Day, John Learnard, Benjamin Wakefield, Nathan Cody, selectmen. Jonathan Day, Charles Baldwin, Joseph Bracket, assessors. Charles Tucker, treasurer. Henry Smith, collector. Rev. Thomas Barrett, Pereclete Morris, John Parker, George B. Slater, Josiah Sessions, Dr. John W. Tenny, school committee.

At a second meeting held for the transaction of business, the following sums were appropriated: For support of schools, \$500; town expenses, \$1,200; roads, bridges, &c., \$500; total, \$2,200.

The number of freeholders, 58; polls, 256; dwelling-houses, 120. The

\* In a search for the meaning of this aboriginal name, the following different spellings are found:—

*Shavegunagunkawa* or *Chabanakongkomun*. Keach's Map and Barber's History give *Chargoggagoggmanchauggagogg*. To the latter name has been added (it is not known by what authority) *-agungamaug!* Eliot (1668) gives *Chabanakongkomun* or *Ongkomum*. This varied orthography was probably caused by the ignorance or carelessness of the writers, as very few of them ever wrote the name twice alike, Eliot alone excepted. It was hoped the Indian meaning of this name might be discovered, but the research has afforded little information. The nearest approach to a translation was found in collections of Connecticut Historical Society, by J. H. Trumbull, and was given as "*the boundary fishing place*," as the lake formed the bound mark between the *Nipmucks* and *Mukhekans*, and was resorted to by both nations, this may be accepted as a correct meaning.

population of the town, at its incorporation, was about 1,200, and has increased as follows: In 1840, 1,403; 1850, 2,371; 1855, 2,727; 1860, 2,925; 1865, 3,608; 1875, 5,064.

Of the population in 1875, 2,060 were of foreign birth, 3,004 native. Of the whole population only 1,249 were born in Webster. The foreign-born voters numbered 256, native, 637; total, 893.

The following named citizens of this town have appeared in public life, occupying the offices mentioned at the dates annexed:—

*Representatives and Senators.*—1833, John Slater; 1834–35, Charles Tucker; 1836, John W. Tenny; 1837, Horace Whitaker; 1838, none sent; 1839, Solomon Robinson; 1840, Lathrop Clark; 1841, Joseph Ireson; 1842, Eden Davis; 1843, Joseph Ireson; 1844–45, Solomon Robinson; 1846, John Dixon; 1847, John W. Tenny; 1848, none sent; 1849, John Dixon; 1850, none sent; 1851, Nathan Cody; 1852, Chandler Fay; 1853, no record; 1854, Elias Jacobs; 1855, George H. Bacon; 1856, Parmenas Keith; 1857, Henry E. Bugbee; 1858, Lyman Sheldon; 1859, Asher Joslin. The district system adopted. 1861, Emory Sibley; 1863, Frederick D. Brown; 1865, Prince Brackett; 1867, Benjamin A. Corbin; 1869, George J. Sanger; 1870, Charles H. Page; 1872, Horace I. Joslin; 1873, Andrew J. Waters; 1876, Frederick T. Chase; 1876, Francis Bugbee; 1879, Robert Humphrey.

*State Senators.*—1863, Asher Joslin; 1868, Frederick D. Brown.

Daniel Chapin was a delegate to revise the State Constitution, 1853.

*County Officers.*—William H. Davis held the office of Special County Commissioner for three years—the only county officer elected from Webster. Jonathan Day, Solomon Shumway and Rufus Hall have held the office of Deputy-Sheriff.

*Town Clerks.*—1832–33, Charles Baldwin; 1834, William E. Starr; 1835–36, Charles Waite; 1837, John P. Stockwell; 1838, Harvey Conant; 1839, William H. Bigelow; 1840–46, John Dixon, Jr.; 1847–49, Edward Rogers; 1850, Liberty Lamb, Jr.; 1851, Francis H. Underwood; 1852, Edward Rogers; 1853–55, John Quincy Adams; 1856, Newton Tourtellotte; 1857–60, P. W. Bruce; 1861–73, S. A. Tingier; 1874, Cortland Wood; 1875, S. A. Tingier; 1876–79, Cortland Wood.

The Baptist Church was first established as the "Baptist Church of Dudley," and its existence in that town and in Webster covers a period of nearly one hundred and fifty years. Little can now be learned concerning its early history; but, as the records mention it as early as 1744, it is probable that it existed some time previous. In 1790, Baptist meetings had become frequent in that part of Dudley now incorporated as Webster. In 1798, a church was organized, and Mr. Solomon Wakefield was ordained to the work of the gospel ministry; not, however, as pastor, yet with the understanding that he would labor with the church in "in word and doctrine."

Elder Wakefield was one of five brothers who were all settled between the present railroad depot and East Village. He owned the land where the South Village is now located, and lived there; he also owned a saw and grist mill. He is spoken of by the few who remember his ministry as zealous and earnest in his manner, and an acceptable preacher.



In 1810-12, meetings were frequent, — sometimes held in private houses, at others in the unoccupied loft of the North Village factory, and also in a school-house which stood where the Eddy Block now stands. The district, in building the house in 1812, had some reference to its use as a place in which to hold religious meetings, no meeting-house being near. It was sometimes used by the Universalists, and also by the Methodists.

The church was again organized Oct. 26, 1814, at the request of fifty-five persons, — twenty-seven males and twenty-eight females, — by an ecclesiastical council held in the above-mentioned school-house. The following churches were represented in the council: — Rev. P. Crosby, pastor, Thompson, Conn.; Rev. William Bently, pastor, Worcester; Rev. James Boomer, pastor, Charlton; Rev. Z. L. Leonard, pastor, Sturbridge; Rev. James Grow, pastor, Pomfret, Conn. Rev. Luther Goddard and brothers, Jeremy F. Tolman and John Walker were invited to a seat, and acted with the council. Rev. Mr. Bently was chosen moderator, and the Rev. Mr. Leonard, scribe. The sermon was preached by Rev. James Grow, and the hand of fellowship given by the moderator. That this church had its origin under highly encouraging auspices may be inferred from the fact that it was the only church of any denomination in the vicinity and that it shared the general favor of the people.

At a church meeting held Nov. 8, 1814, Mr. Stephen Bartlett and Mr. Nathaniel Crosby were chosen deacons, but they did not signify their acceptance of the office until July 6, 1815.

Mr. Ezek Brown, who had been a deacon of the church of Sutton, moved to this place; and, on the 15th of June, 1815, about eight months after the organization, was invited to serve as their pastor. The ordination was as follows: — The school-house in which they worshipped was deemed insufficient for the people expected to be present, and a spacious tent was built by Mr. Augustus Eddy for the occasion. At this time, Rev. Samuel Waters was elected moderator, and Rev. Zenas L. Leonard scribe. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Z. L. Leonard of Sturbridge; ordaining prayer by Rev. James Grow of Pomfret, Conn.; the charge by Rev. Samuel Waters of Sutton; right hand of fellowship by Rev. William Bently of Worcester; concluding prayer by Rev. Isaac Dwinell of Auburn. Rev. Mr. Brown's labors here continued for three years and three months. His ministry was one of comparative prosperity.

The church now remained destitute of a pastor seven years and four months, but was supplied by ministers from the neighboring Baptist churches.

In 1825-6, the society erected their first meeting-house, which was dedicated Dec. 26, 1826. Elder Jonathan Going of Worcester delivering the sermon.

The church had now become anxious to settle a pastor; and Rev. John B. Ballard of Masonville, N. Y., was invited, and accepted. He was born in Dudley Oct. 25, 1795, and entered Hamilton Theological Institute, N. Y., in 1820. The commencement of Mr. Ballard's ministry here may be considered



an era with the church. In the spring of 1827, he founded the first Sabbath school ever taught in this place. Mr. Ballard closed his labors here in the spring of 1828, having served about two years and three months. He died in the city of New York, Jan. 29, 1856, aged 60 years. From this time down to the present, the following have served as pastors:—1828, Rev. Joshua Eveleth, several months; 1829, Rev. Hubbel Loomis, one year; 1830, Rev. Thomas Barnett, two years five months; 1832, Rev. Abiel Fisher, one year six months; 1834, Rev. James Grow, one year; 1836, Rev. Loomis G. Leonard, six years seven months; 1843, Rev. John F. Burbank, three years five months; 1849, Rev. Joseph Thayer, one year; 1850, Rev. Frederic Charlton, three years; 1853, Rev. George W. Dorrence, two years; 1856, Rev. J. L. A. Fish, seven years three months.

The vacant pastorate was filled Oct. 1, 1863, by Rev. Charles W. Reding, a gentleman of culture and large experience, who continued his labors with the church until 1869. During Mr. Reding's ministry the society erected the present church edifice. It is constructed of stone, in the Gothic style, and cost \$31,067, being the most elegant and graceful church in the place. Mr. Reding was followed by Rev. J. V. Osterhout, who was ordained Aug. 9, 1869, and resigned Aug. 1, 1873. Rev. Thomas T. Filmer succeeded him, and began his pastorate Nov. 1, 1873; and continues to the present time.

Prominent among the members of this society have been Solomon Robinson and Prince Brackett. Both were elected deacons in 1831, and still continue in that office. The former served as clerk for thirty years, and at present acts as treasurer of the society. Dyer Freeman was also deacon for a number of years. The society is in a flourishing condition.

Much of the foregoing history has been extracted from a historical discourse delivered by Mr. Reding at the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the church, Oct. 30, 1864.

The history of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Webster affords the following facts. About the years 1822 and 1823 Samuel Henderson and John McCausland came to this country from Ireland and settled in this place. They established class-meetings at their homes. In 1823 they, with the following persons, were instrumental in organizing a society: Samuel J. Booth, William Archer, Parsons Tourtellott, Olney Esten, Ebenezer Plummer, William Harbenson, William Hurd, Hezekiah Davis, Calvin Aldrich, Charles Wait, Henry Davis, John Dixon, William Andrews, Daniel Dwight, Oliver Adams, Jr., Jeremiah Upham. A few years later, Capt. Hiram Moffitt, Erastus Spaulding, and George Houson, with others, joined the society, materially increasing its strength.

Their first preacher was Rev. Elias Marble, who labored with them for two years. His successors have been as follows: 1825, John W. Hardy; 1826, John W. Chase; 1827, Heman Perry; 1828, George Southerland; 1829, Isaac Bonny; 1830, John Lovejoy; 1831, O. Robbins; 1832, Peter Sabin; 1833,

Isaac Jennison; 1834, Ira M. Bidwell; 1835, Jonathan Cady; 1836-37, Isaac Stoddard; 1838-39, Joseph Merrill; 1840, Isaac Sanborn; 1841-42, Abraham D. Merrill; 1843-44, Leonard B. Griffin; 1845-46, Mark Staple; 1847-48, Chas. S. McRedding; 1849-50, Joseph Lewis; 1851-52, D. E. Chapin; 1853-54, Union Ward; 1855-56, Samuel Tupper; 1857-58, Jeremiah S. Haniford; 1859, Abraham S. Dobbs; 1860-61, Pliny Wood; 1862, Joseph C. Cromack; 1863-64, Cyrus Eastman; 1865, James W. Morey; 1866-67, Edward S. Best; 1868-70, Albinus O. Hamilton; 1871-72, LeRoy S. Brewster; 1873-74, William J. Pomfret; 1875-76, Daniel Richards; 1877-79, S. B. Sweetser.

The preachers from 1823 to 1833 belonged to the Thompson and Dudley circuits.

Their first church edifice was erected in 1828, where Benjamin A. Corbin's residence now stands, and was dedicated June, 1829. The cost of this building and land was \$1,467.40, "including two dollars and ninety-two cents paid for two and a half gallons rum for raising." The trustees were Daniel Dwight, Oliver Adams, Jr., Jeremiah Upham, William Archer, Calvin Aldrich. This building was moved and afterwards known as Fenner's Hall, now a part of McQuaid's Block.

A second building was erected near the East Village in 1833, at a cost of \$1,626; this time including twenty-six pounds of cheese at nine cents per pound, for the raising, being a noteworthy change in refreshments. The builder was Jonas Lamb; building committee, George B. Slater, Esq., Jonathan Day, William Archer, William Andrews; trustees, William Andrews, William Archer, Samuel Henderson, John Dixon, John McCausland, Calvin Aldrich, Henry Davis, Charles Wait, William Hurd. This building is now occupied by the French Catholics.

The third church building, the one in present use, is situated on Main Street nearly opposite the site of the society's first church. This building was erected in 1867, and dedicated September 12 that same year. The builder was Caleb S. Hall; building committee, Rev. E. S. Best, B. A. Corbin, C. C. Corbin, William H. Davis, C. S. Hall, Cyrus Spaulding. The trustees were, B. A. Corbin, C. C. Corbin, Samuel Aldrich, Amasa Wood, Hon. Asher Joslin, David Wellington, C. S. Hall, Robert Humphrey, Esbon White. The cost of land, building, and fixtures, including an organ, was \$22,000. The church has been fairly prosperous, averaging of late years two hundred and twenty-five members.

The First Congregational Church and Society were organized June 13, 1838, by forty-one persons, most of whom had previously worshipped with the Baptists. At the first meeting for the organization of the society, Jonathan Day was chosen moderator and James J. Robinson elected clerk; George B. Slater, Dexter W. Jones, and Lyman Johnson were chosen assessors and standing committee. Provisions were at once made for the support of preaching, and



meetings were regularly held in the meeting-house, first occupied by the Methodists, until the year 1842, when the present house of worship was erected. It was enlarged in 1849, so as to admit twenty-four additional pews.

Rev. Sidney Holman, the first pastor, was installed Oct 31, 1838, and was dismissed May 4, 1840. The following have served as pastors: Hubbard A. Reed, from May 6, 1841 to Nov. 5, 1844; Lorenzo Cary, from Aug. 14, 1845, to June 29, 1852; S. C. Kendall, from March 29, 1854, to March 30, 1857, and from Nov. 8, 1860, to July 22, 1868; David M. Bean, from Dec. 10, 1868, to May 25, 1871; J. S. Batchelder, from Dec. 6, 1871, to Sept. 7, 1874; H. M. Rogers, from Dec. 9, 1874, to Sept. 28, 1876.

The first deacons were Lathrop Clark and Ebenezer Guild, both chosen June 24, 1838. The following have served since then: Edward Parker, chosen Nov. 6, 1841; Charles Carpenter, chosen Oct. 12, 1845; James J. Robinson, chosen 1850; Waldo Johnson, chosen Sept. 7, 1764; David Perry, chosen Feb. 19, 1868; Hiram Spaulding, Feb. 19, 1868; Rufus B. Eddy, chosen Dec. 30, 1878; J. E. Hitchcock, chosen Dec. 30, 1878.

The first records of the Catholic parish of Webster date back to 1844, at which time Webster and surrounding towns within the limits of the county of Worcester were under the charge of the pastor of St. John's Church, Worcester. The foundations of the present church edifice, known as St. Louis' Church, was commenced by the Rev. M. Gibson, who resigned his charge in 1853, and was succeeded the same year by the Rev. Napoleon Magnault. The original church was completed during the administration of Mr. Magnault, at a cost of about \$8,000. It is a plain, substantial brick building, with room for seating five hundred persons. In August, 1858, the present pastor, James Quan, was appointed to the charge of the parish. There was at that time a large congregation, composed of an English and French speaking people, and the numbers were rapidly increasing by emigration from Ireland, Canada, Germany, and Poland. Therefore, in 1865, it was deemed necessary to enlarge the church. This was done by doubling the capacity of the building, at a cost of \$20,000, subsequent to which a parish house was built, at a cost of \$7,500. In 1870 the French-speaking members of the parish formed the Parish of the Sacred Heart, numbering two thousand souls; the Parish of St. Louis has an equal number.

In November, 1869, the French-speaking population of Webster purchased of H. N. Slater, Esq., the meeting-house formerly occupied by the Methodists, and next year established a society, with the Rev. J. Cosson as pastor. He continued here until Jan. 7, 1871, when he was removed to Spencer. He was succeeded by Rev. A. A. Landry of North Adams, the present pastor. Since the society was established the church has received several important additions, making it a fine and substantial building. The number of communicants is thirteen hundred; number in Sabbath school, three hundred.



The doctrine of Universalism was preached in Webster long before any attempt was made to organize a church. These meetings were held in an "old school-house," and more recently in what was known as Fenner's Hall. They also occupied Webster Hall for a time.

The society was first organized April 22, 1861. John F. Hines was chosen clerk, a position which he has held to the present time. The first standing committee were Oscar F. Chase, John W. Steere, and Ethan Bullard. May 1, 1864, Rev. George J. Sanger was ordained the first pastor. Efforts were now made by the friends of the society to raise funds for the purpose of building a church edifice. These efforts proved successful, and on the 22d of June, 1866, the society was reorganized, under the provisions of chapter 30 of the General Statutes of Massachusetts, a legal corporation. At this date a building committee was chosen, with full powers to contract for the building of the church. This was done at the expense of about \$20,000, and it was dedicated Aug. 21, 1867. Rev. Mr. Sanger closed his labors here, April, 1869. He was succeeded by Rev. J. W. Keyes, who resigned after a short pastorate. For some time after this the pulpit was supplied by Rev. Mrs. Wilkes and others. Early in 1874, Rev. J. W. Moore was called to its pastorate, and continued his labors until the fall of 1877. In September, 1878, the present pastor, Rev. J. F. Simmons, accepted a call. In February, 1876, a severe gale blew down the steeple of the church and otherwise seriously damaged the building, which rendered extensive repairs necessary.

Mrs. Julia Clemens Murdock, a life-long Universalist and friend of the society, died April 27, 1879, leaving the greater part of her estate, amounting to several thousand dollars, to the society.

The first service of the Protestant Episcopal Church was held in the town hall at East Webster, July 18, 1869, by the Rev. William Henry Brooks, D. D., rector of Grace Church, Oxford. The society, having no church of their own, held their services in such places as could conveniently be obtained, until the church edifice was erected. A parish was formed Jan. 3, 1870, with the name of the Church of the Reconciliation; and July 18, 1870, it being the first anniversary of the services in the parish, the corner-stone of the church was laid, Rev. Dr. Brooks officiating in the absence of the Bishop of the Diocese. The following deposits, placed in a lead box, were inserted in the corner-stone: Holy Bible, Book of Common Prayer, Churchman's Year Book, 1870, Journal of the Seventy-ninth Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts, Manuscript Historical Sketch of the parish, prepared by the rector, office used at the laying of the corner-stone, list of the officers of the parish, blank form of the music in the service of the parish, "Christian Witness" and "Church Advocate," for April 14, May 17 and May 26, 1870, "Churchman," April 2, 1870, "Church Journal," June 8, 1870, "Webster Times," June 18, 1870, report of town officers of Webster for 1869-70, report of school com-

mittee of Webster for 1869-70, "Worcester Daily Spy," July 16, 1870, "Boston Morning Journal," July 16, 1870, specimens of fractional currency, &c.

The prayer was given by Rev. Thomas L. Randolph of St. John's Church, Wilkinsonville. The address, which was able and appropriate, was delivered by the Rev. William N. Ackley, rector of Trinity Church, Newtown, Conn. The services were concluded by Rev. James W. Clark, of St. Philip's Church, Putnam, Conn., who pronounced the blessing of peace.

The freewill offerings given on this occasion amounted to \$4,619.10.

The church edifice is constructed of wood, in Gothic style, and erected upon land generously donated by William S. Slater, Esq. It has a seating capacity for three hundred persons, with provisions for easy enlargement, when desired. The interior is finished in chestnut. Its extreme length is seventy-seven feet, by forty-four feet six inches in width. It was dedicated Jan. 3, 1871. The ceremonies were under the charge of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Manton Eastburn. It contains a fine organ, the gift of Mrs. George B. Slater. Rev. William H. Brooks was called by the church wardens and vestrymen to the rectorship March 19, 1870, and accepted on the 26th, following. He continued with the parish until April 2, 1872, when he resigned. Roger S. Howard, D. D., assumed the rectorship, Sept. 1, 1872, and resigned May 1, 1879.

The society of the Reformed Methodist Church was organized in 1872, under the labors of Rev. Harvey Wakefield, the present pastor. A building costing two thousand five hundred dollars was erected the same year by subscription and dedicated Jan. 1, 1873. The prayer was given by Rev. Harvey Wakefield; the sermon by Rev. William H. Kirk. The church is located in the eastern part of the town, facing the lake. The society is small, numbering about twenty members, but is in good condition.

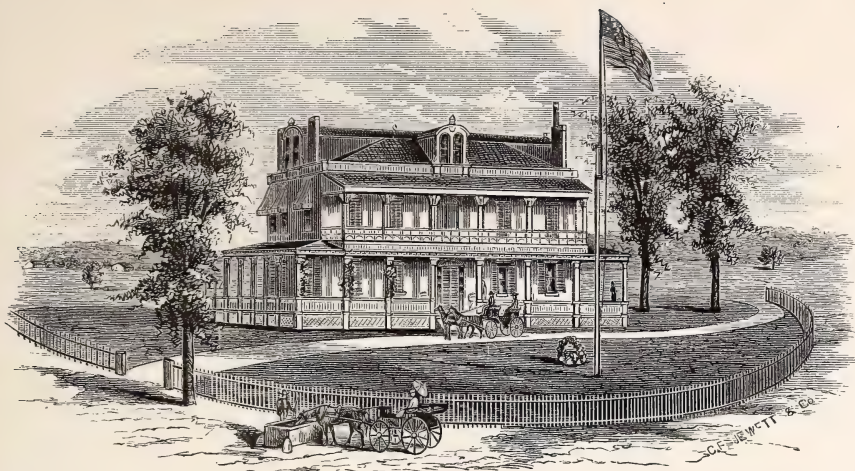
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## CHAPTER II.

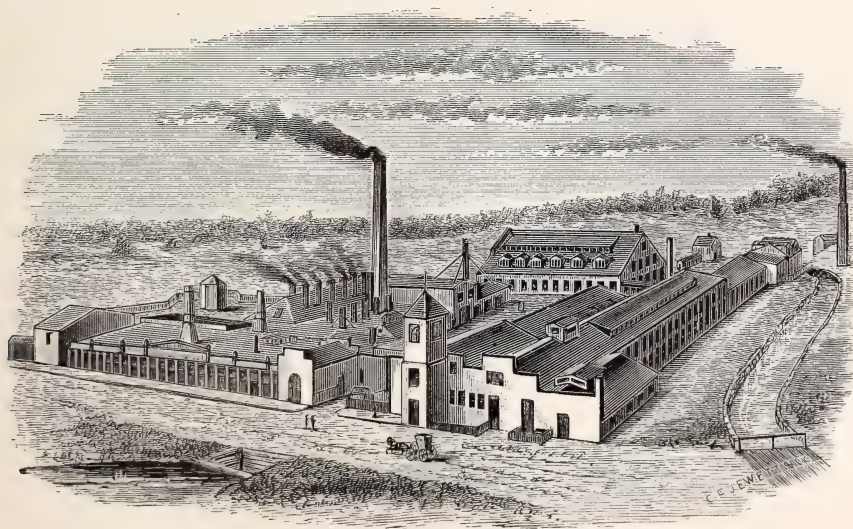
EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS — ACTION OF THE TOWN IN THE REBELLION — STATISTICS  
— MANUFACTURES — SAMUEL SLATER — HIS EARLY EXERTIONS — COTTON AND  
WOOLEN BUSINESS — SHOE MANUFACTURE — OTHER INDUSTRIES — PUBLIC  
INSTITUTIONS — FIRE DEPARTMENT — LOCAL SOCIETIES.

At a town-meeting held April 28, 1832, "the report of the committee authorized at a previous meeting to determine and define the limits of the several school districts was accepted." This committee divided the town into four, afterwards increased to five school districts, the limits of which remained essentially as first determined until 1867, when the district system was abolished in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Statutes, the town taking





RESIDENCE OF H. N. SLATER, WEBSTER, MASS.



H. N. SLATER'S CAMBRIC WORKS, WEBSTER, MASS.





possession of all the school-houses and other property belonging to the several districts, and assuming the care and maintenance of the same.

There are twelve graded and two "mixed" schools, with an average of eight hundred pupils, and maintained at a cost of seven thousand dollars per annum. In 1855, a high school was established and a building erected; the second floor for the use of the school and the lower one as a town hall; previous to this the town had no hall. This building was located at the Centre, west of the Methodist Episcopal Church, now the church of the Sacred Heart. It was burned January, 1870. The town immediately erected, at a cost of eighteen thousand dollars, the elegant and commodious stone building now occupied by the high school. The policy of the town towards its schools has always been liberal and generous, consequently the schools have attained a high rank in usefulness.

As is true in so many other towns in Massachusetts and New England, it is of deep interest to notice the part sustained by Webster in the war of the Rebellion.

On the reception of the news of the surrender of Fort Sumter, intense excitement pervaded the town's-people; and when the call for seventy-five thousand volunteers was received, Isaac T. Hooton, Charles N. Shumway and Elmoine D. Clemans immediately responded and enlisted in company B, third battalion M. V. M., Maj. Charles Devens, commanding. They left for the seat of war April 19, 1861, and served until August 2d of the same year, when they again enlisted.

The first action taken by the town upon matters relating to the war was on the 29th of April, when it was "voted to pay each volunteer belonging to Webster five dollars a month while in active service; and to his wife and mother dependant upon him for support, one dollar and a half per week, and to each child fifty cents per week; and if the family shall need more, the amounts to be increased at the discretion of the selectmen." This pay was to begin when the soldier was sworn into service. He was also to receive one dollar a day while drilling. Four thousand dollars was appropriated as a war fund.

July 6, 1861. Voted, "To furnish the 'Slater Guards,' then drilling, with uniforms." The Slater Guards, afterwards company I, fifteenth regiment M. V. M., were furnished, while drilling, with rations and uniforms by the citizens. When they left home to join their regiment at Worcester, a dinner and a purse of one thousand dollars was given to the men. The officers were presented with swords and belts. Each member was furnished with socks and mittens by the ladies, and a fine flag was given to the company by William T. Shumway.

On November 5th, the town passed the following resolution:—

"*Resolved*, That we hereby tender our thanks to the Slater Guards for their bravery at the battle of Ball's Bluff."

1862, July 10th. It was voted to pay a bounty of one hundred dollars to each volunteer who shall enlist for three years and be credited to the quota of the town.

1863, December 8th. Six thousand dollars were appropriated for a war fund and a like sum for recruiting purposes.

1864, July 14th. "Voted, to pay each volunteer who shall enlist for three years and be credited to the quota of the town, a bounty of one hundred and twenty-five dollars." This was continued until the close of the war.

Webster furnished three hundred and sixty-seven men, which was a surplus of fifty-seven over and above all demands. The following were commissioned officers : —

"Capt. Amos Bartlett, promoted from second lieutenant; Pliny M. George, first lieutenant, promoted from corporal; Silas S. Joy, first lieutenant, promoted from sergeant; Emory Sibley, first lieutenant, promoted from sergeant; Orin Smith, first lieutenant, promoted sergeant; Charles O. Storrs, first lieutenant, commissioned; George A. Clapp, second lieutenant."

There were also forty-two non-commissioned officers.

The amount of money appropriated and expended by the town on account of the war, exclusive of State aid, was twenty-eight thousand six hundred and seventy-four dollars, sixty-one cents (\$28,674.61.) In addition to this, the citizens contributed quite a large sum. The amount paid by the town for State aid to the soldiers' families was eighteen thousand nine hundred and twenty dollars, sixty-three cents (\$18,920.63.)

The selectmen in 1861 were: Henry E. Bugbee, Lyman Sheldon, Nathan Joslin. In 1862, Nathan Joslin, Hiram Allen, Nathan Chamberlain. In 1863, Nathan Joslin, Emory Sibley, Benjamin A. Corbin. In 1864, Emory Sibley, Benjamin A. Corbin, Frederick D. Brown. In 1865, Frederick D. Brown, John F. Hinds, Solomon Robinson. The town clerk during all the years of the war was Seymour A. Tingier. The town treasurer for the same period was William T. Shumway. The Ladies' Aid Society is to be remembered. The good work performed by the ladies of Webster during this period was very considerable, only brief mention of which can be made here. The Ladies' Aid Society was formed Sept. 13, 1862, with the following officers: Mrs. S. C. Kendall, president; Mrs. Solomon Shumway, vice-president; Mrs. F. D. Brown, secretary and treasurer; directors, Mrs. Chester Clemans, Mrs. Nathan Chamberlain, Mrs. R. O. Storrs, Mrs. J. J. Robinson, Mrs. J. S. Carney, Mrs. Cyrus Spaulding, Mrs. George W. Keith, Mrs. Rufus Freeman, Mrs. Edwin May, Mrs. A. T. Sly, Mrs. John Thornton, Mrs. Rufus B. Eddy, Miss Esther Converse. This board of officers served until Sept. 20, 1864, when the following were elected and continued in office until the close of the war: Mrs. Solomon Shumway, president; Mrs. Nathan Joslin, vice-president; Mrs. Frederick D. Brown, secretary and treasurer; directors, Mrs. Chester Clemans, Mrs. Robert Humphrey, Mrs. Henry H. Stevens, Mrs. William T. Shum-



way, Mrs. S. C. Kendall, Mrs. Amos T. Sly, Mrs. Rufus B. Eddy, Miss Mary Brackett. The society had a membership of one hundred and fifty-eight. It sent to the military hospitals eight boxes of clothing and other articles, valued at one thousand one hundred and twenty dollars fifty-six cents, and raised over one thousand dollars.

*Soldiers who were killed, or who died in the service.*—Ashael Aldrich, killed, Cold Harbor, Va.; Harrison G. O. Aldrich, died, Newbern, 1864; Henry L. Amidon, killed, Antietam, Sept. 16, 1862; Elisha T. Bigelow, died, Harrison's Landing, July 7, 1862; Thomas Blasland, died, Dec. 25, 1863; William Brandis, killed, Gettysburg, July 2, 1863; Dennis Breen, killed, Lynchburg, Va., June 18, 1864; Lucius Briggs, killed, Antietam, Sept. 16, 1862; Charles E. Buck, Sept. 27, 1862; George Butler, killed, Antietam, Sept. 17, 1862; Henry Butler, died, Nov. 14, 1862; William Cady, died while a prisoner; John Cassidy, died, Hilton Head, S. C., Aug. 5, 1864; Frederick C. Childs, killed, Laurel Hill, Va., Aug. 10, 1864; William Converse, died in prison, Richmond, Va., Feb. 13, 1862; Marcus M. Corbin, died Newbern, N. C.; Louis Duprey, killed, Cold Harbor, Va., June 2, 1864; Samuel Emerson, died, Antietam, Sept. 26, 1862; Charles G. Foster, died, Antietam, Sept. 17, 1862; John George, died a prisoner, 1864; John Grady, killed, Gettysburg, July 3, 1863; John E. Holland, died in service, Nov. 29, 1864; Joseph Holland, died, Alexandria, Va., Nov. 28, 1862; William Kelly, died City Point, Va., June 25, 1864; Frederick Levoice, killed, Chantilly, Sept. 1, 1862; Thomas P. Munyan, died Oct. 17, 1864, from wounds received Antietam; John Nichols, died a prisoner; William H. Palmer, killed, battle of Wilderness, May 6, 1864; Edwin L. Parmenter, died Oct. 14, 1862, of wounds received Antietam; Antoine Phillips, died, Andersonville, a prisoner; Mitchell Provost, killed, Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862; George O. Raymond, died July 22, 1863, from wounds received Gettysburg; Gottfried Reidimun, died Sept. 30, 1862, from wounds received Antietam; John D. Reynolds, killed, Cold Harbor, Va., May 30, 1864; Francis Santurn, killed, Gettysburg, July 3, 1863; Abraham Sargent, killed, Antietam, July 16, 1862; Joseph D. Scholfield, died, Fort Lyons, Va., Feb. 16, 1863; William Scott, drowned, Ball's Bluff, Oct. 21, 1861; William L. Sholes, killed, Antietam, Sept. 17, 1862; Albert H. Snow, died July 10, 1863, of wounds received Gettysburg; Frederick Soder, killed, Ball's Bluff, Oct. 21, 1861; Frederick Stanter, killed, Gettysburg, July 3, 1863; Egbert M. Stevens, died Feb. 8, 1863; James Stevens, killed, Ball's Bluff, Oct. 21, 1861; Alfred Tourtellotte, died Oct. 25, from wounds received Antietam; John Vickers, died Sept. 2, 1864; Edward Warren, killed at Webster by cars, before being discharged; Moses J. Warren, died Oct. 25, 1861, from wounds received Ball's Bluff; Moses Wood, killed, Antietam, Sept. 12, 1862.

Samuel Slater, justly called the "Father of the Cotton manufactures of the United States," was born at Belper, in Derbyshire, England, June 9, 1768. He was one of several sons of William Slater, a respectable yeoman, owning the estate known as "Holly House Farms," now the property of Horatio N. Slater, Esq., of this town.

Jedediah Strutt, a partner of Richard Arkwright in the manufacture of cotton yarns, and also engaged in improving and perfecting machinery for the same, applied to Mr. Slater for one of his sons as an apprentice. Samuel,

who was then fourteen years of age, was recommended as possessing a natural genius for the science of mechanics. Mr. Strutt accepted him, and the indenture of apprenticeship was prepared; but, on account of an accident which happened at this time to his father, Samuel signed the agreement for him. He was then taken into the family of Mr. Strutt, was a faithful and skilled apprentice, often consulted by his master, who had a high estimation of his abilities.

A short time previous to the expiration of his apprenticeship, his attention was attracted by an offer, in a Philadelphia paper, of a bounty to any party introducing the series of Arkwright cotton machinery into that city. This was a critical point in the history of the country, which was then striving to establish manufactures of its own, and needed skilled mechanics. Mr. Slater appreciated this state of affairs, and perceived the advantage to be gained by using the knowledge he possessed in the rising business of this new country. Knowing it to be impossible to take any drafts, plans or models out of the country, owing to the jealousy of England, he determined to make himself master of every branch of the business; he therefore extended the time of his service four months, but before this had expired, he left England in the guise of a Derbyshire farmer, intimating to no one his intentions. Before sailing, however, he sent his widowed mother a letter, informing her of his plans. On the 13th of September, 1789, he sailed for New York, and reached there after a voyage of sixty-five days. He engaged lodgings at Golden Hill place, and awaited advices from Philadelphia; but nothing satisfactory was received, and he soon engaged in the business of the New York Manufacturing Company, but this also proved unsatisfactory to him.

While at his lodgings, he made the acquaintance of the captain of a Providence packet, who, in answer to his inquiry, told him of Moses Brown, a gentleman of wealth, who was engaged in an effort to spin cotton by water-power; and advised him to apply to him. Mr. Slater accordingly addressed the following letter to Mr. Brown:—

“NEW YORK, December 2, 1789.

“SIR,—A few days ago I was informed that you wanted a manager of cotton spinning, etc., in which business I flatter myself that I can give the greatest satisfaction in making machinery, making good yarns, either for stockings, or for twist, as any that is made in England, as I have had opportunity, and an oversight of Sir Richard Arkwright's works, and in Mr. Strutt's mill upwards of eight years. If you are not provided for, should be glad to serve you, though I am in the New York manufactory, and have been three weeks since I arrived from England. But we have but one card, two machines, two spinning jennies, which I think are not worth using. My encouragement is pretty good, but should much rather have the care of the perpetual carding and spinning. My intention is to erect a perpetual carding and spinning (meaning the Arkwright patents). If you please to drop a line respecting the amount of encouragement you wish to give, by favor of Captain Brown, you will much oblige, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

“SAMUEL SLATER.

“P. S.—Please to direct to me at No. 37 Golden Hill, New York

“MR. BROWN, Providence.”



Samuel Slater

*Samuel Slater*





Mr. Brown replied as follows :—

“ PROVIDENCE, 10th, 12th month, 1789.

“ FRIEND, — I received thine of 2d instant, and observe its contents. I, or rather Almy & Brown, who have the business in the cotton line which I began, one being my son-in-law and the other a kinsman, want the assistance of a man skilled in the frame or water spinning. An experiment has been made which has failed, no person being acquainted with the business, and the frames imperfect.

“ We are destitute of a person acquainted with water-frame spinning; thy being already engaged in a factory with many able proprietors, we can hardly suppose we can give thee encouragement adequate to leaving thy present employ. As the frame we have is the first attempt of the kind that has been made in America, it is too imperfect to afford much encouragement; we hardly know what to say to thee, but if thou thought thou couldst perfect and conduct them to profit, if thou will come and do it, thou shalt have all the profits made of them over and above the interest on the money they cost, and the wear and tear of them. We will find stock, and be repaid in yarn as we may agree, for six months. And this we do for the information thou can give, if fully acquainted with the business. After this, if we find the business profitable, we can enlarge it, or before, if sufficient proof of it be had on trial, and can make any further agreement that may appear best and agreeable on all sides. We have secured only a temporary water convenience; but, if we find the business profitable, can perpetuate one that is convenient. If thy prospects should be better, and thou should know of any other person unengaged, should be obliged to thee to mention us to him. In the meantime, shall be glad to be informed whether thou come or not. If thy present situation does not come up to what thou wishest, and, from thy knowledge of business, can be ascertained of the advantages of the mills, so as to induce thee to come and work ours, and have the *credit* as well as the advantage of perfecting the *first* mill in America, we should be glad to engage thy care so long as it can be made profitable to both, and we can agree.

“ I am, for myself and Almy & Brown, thy friend,

MOSES BROWN.

“ SAMUEL SLATER, at 27 Golden Hill, New York.”

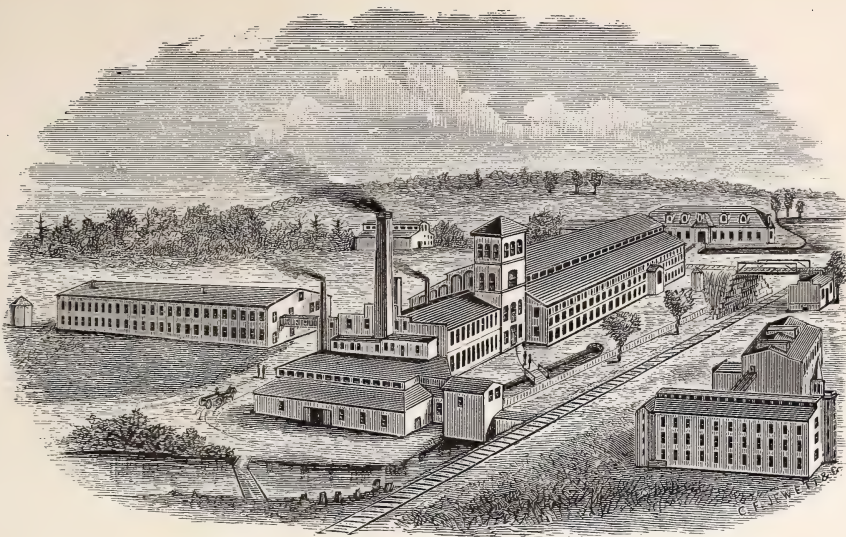
On the receipt of the foregoing letter, Mr. Slater decided to visit Providence, and have an interview with Mr. Brown and his partners. He therefore left New York January, 1790. On meeting Mr. Brown at Providence, he assured him he was able to perform all he had promised in his letter; and to corroborate his statement, showed his indenture with Mr. Strutt, who at that time was manufacturing the best yarn in England. He visited the mill at Pawtucket with Mr. Brown, and examined the machinery, which he at once condemned as worthless. He said: “These will not do; they are good for nothing, nor can they be made of any value in making yarn. They are only valuable for old iron.”

It was finally agreed between the parties that Mr. Slater should immediately commence the construction of machines necessary for carding and spinning cotton. After a year's time his labors were successful, and he was able to produce a good quality of yarn from his machines (the first ever produced by this process in America), and was admitted into partnership with Moses Brown

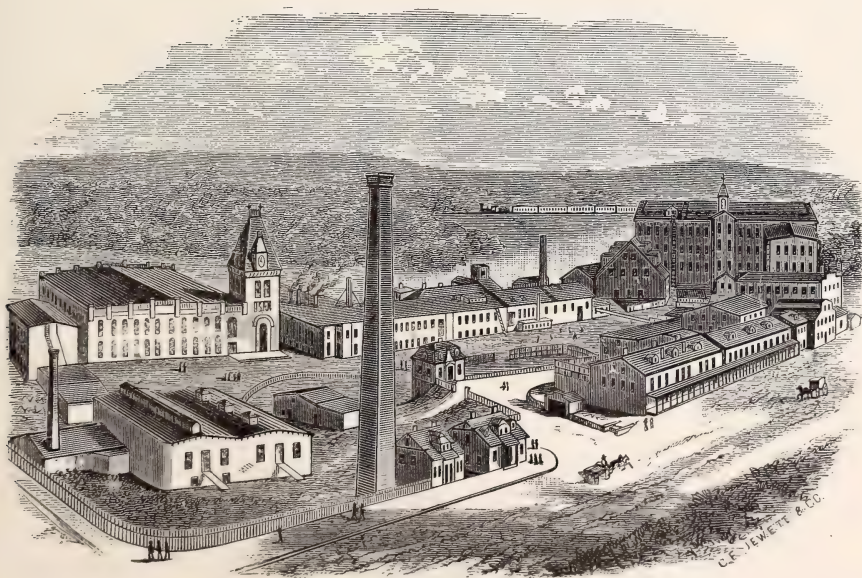
and William Almy, under the style of Almy, Brown & Slater. In 1798 he associated with himself his father-in-law Oziel Wilkinson, Timothy Green and William Wilkinson, under the name of Samuel Slater & Co., and erected a mill at Pawtucket, for the manufacture of cotton yarns. These yarns, either in skeins or made up into warps, were sold to farmers and others to be taken to their homes and woven for themselves in hand-loom, or were given out to be woven for the manufacturers and returned to them in the shape of cloth. To obtain this yarn was deemed a favor by the female members of the families, as the weaving enabled them to earn the means to pay the merchants for their necessary supplies. The usual price paid for weaving was 4 cents per yard for  $\frac{3}{4}$  yard wide, plain cloth; 6 cents for 4-4th wide, do.; 6 cents for  $\frac{3}{4}$  wide, stripes; 8 cents for  $\frac{3}{4}$  wide, plaids; 10 cents for  $\frac{3}{4}$  wide, bedticks; and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents for 4-4th wide, do. This business continued from about 1812 to 1823.

By 1811 cotton manufactories had increased to such an extent in the neighborhood of Pawtucket, that it was difficult to find an outlet for all the yarns made, as all the families for miles around were employed in the picking and weaving. It became necessary, therefore, to enter a new territory, and especially a farming country, as among the families of the farmers were to be found those best skilled in the hand-loom process, which was then the only means of weaving. Mr. Slater's attention was directed to this place, then known as Oxford South Gore, on account of the superior water-power obtainable from Lake Chaubunagungamaug. The neighboring land was rocky and covered with a forest. By the borders of the lake ran a road to Providence, already the centre of large manufacturing interests. In Mr. Slater's employ were two sons of a Mr. Tiffany, Lyman and Bela. The young men in journeying from Providence to their homes in Wales, Mass., had frequently passed by this lake, and had spoken to Mr. Slater about the situation. It afforded superior advantages in water-power and facilities for weaving. Bela Tiffany made a more careful survey of the region, under Mr. Slater's direction, and reported that there were at the outlet of the lake, a small grist and saw mill, a trip-hammer shop, a small tannery, the property of Asa Robinson, and a few scattered families. Mr. Slater soon visited the place, and purchased a large tract of land and the entire control of the water-power. Receiving Mr. Bela Tiffany into partnership, under the firm-name of "Slater & Tiffany," he erected in 1812, a cotton-mill, known as the "Green Mill," which was the beginning of the extensive manufacturing operations at the East Village. This partnership between Mr. Slater and Mr. Tiffany continued until 1818, when Mr. Tiffany retired and Mr. Slater became the sole owner. This enterprise encouraged others to occupy privileges on the French River. In 1812, a company of traders and farmers from Dudley, formed a company known as the Merino Wool Factory Company, and erected a mill on the site of the present Stevens Linen Works. In 1815, Braman, Benedict & Waters, built a small cotton-mill at the privilege now owned by Samuel Slater & Sons, North Village.





H. N. SLATER'S COTTON MILL, WEBSTER, MASS.



H. N. SLATER'S WOOLEN MILL, WEBSTER, MASS.



Soon after the commencement of the war of 1812, the woolen manufactures were stimulated throughout the country by the necessities growing out of it. In 1815, one of the employés of the Merino Wool Factory, Edward Howard, an Englishman, started a small woolen-mill in the employ of Samuel Slater, at the East Village, for the manufacture of broadcloths and other similar woolens. This continued until destroyed by fire in 1820, when a purchase was made of a privilege at the South Village, and the business transferred to the site of what is now the Slater Woolen Company's Works. Mills were erected and the business carried on, increasing from three to five sets, under the firm of Slater & Howard until the close of 1829, when Mr. Slater purchased Mr. Howard's interest and associated with himself his three sons, George B., John and Horatio N., under the firm of Samuel Slater & Sons. This firm-name has continued to the present time. It may be interesting to state that this is believed to be the first attempt to manufacture American broadcloths, and with what success is best illustrated by the fact that of all firms who have commenced its manufacture, this one is the only one to carry it on continuously for more than sixty years.

The rapid increase of business and population of the three villages which had grown up from his enterprise, made it desirable to incorporate them into a separate town, which was done, mainly through Mr. Slater's influence in 1832. At that time there were five sets of woolen machinery at the South Village. The company were engaged in the manufacture of wool-dyed broadcloths and cassimeres of various colors. The principal mill was burned in the winter of 1834-5, but was immediately rebuilt of the same size. In 1843 it was increased to seven sets. Additions have been made from time to time, until in 1861 it had been increased to fourteen sets. In 1865 it had reached thirty-two sets. This year a corporation was formed with Horatio N. Slater, president; H. N. Slater, Jr., treasurer; William S. Slater, R. O. Storrs, directors; with a capital of five hundred thousand dollars. In 1873 the mill was further increased until it contained thirty-six sets. It has since been remodeled, and now contains thirty-three sets. During this whole period these works have been engaged in the manufacture of broadcloths, doeskins, and other woolen-face goods.

The East Village mill in 1832 consisted of four thousand spindles and one hundred looms, engaged in the manufacture of yard-wide sheetings, dyeing and bleaching cotton thread and knitting-cotton. At the North Village was a thread mill of about two thousand spindles, and twisting machines for the manufacture of sewing-thread and knitting-cotton. In 1844 new buildings were erected, with one thousand spindles and one hundred and sixty looms for the manufacture of fine shirtings. During the same year additions were made at the East Village, increasing the works there to seven thousand spindles. From this time up to the year 1854, the works at the East and North villages had been increased by the additions of looms and spindles, and not until during the war,



was any change made; additions have since been made from time to time, until the works at present consist of forty thousand spindles and seven hundred and forty looms.

A new branch of business, requiring less cotton and more help, was inaugurated during the war, at the East Village. This was the manufacture of jaconets or paper cambrics. The enterprise required the introduction of works for dyeing, bleaching, and calendering cottons. The business proved successful, and has gradually been increased. In January, 1878, the "Green Mill" was destroyed by fire and immediately rebuilt, with a capacity of dyeing and finishing a variety of cotton to the extent of ten thousand pieces per week.

To illustrate still further the growth of this business, these facts are given. Samuel Slater & Sons employed in the month of May, 1832, one hundred and thirty hands, producing 8,113 $\frac{3}{4}$  yards, two-thirds of which were broadcloths and the remainder satinets. The pay-roll for that month amounted to \$1,628.-28. For the corresponding month in 1875, the Webster Woolen Company employed seven hundred and eleven hands, producing 52,386 $\frac{1}{4}$  yards broadcloths; the pay-roll amounted to \$13,751.97.

The Union Mills, North Village, employed in 1832, one hundred and fifty-nine hands, producing monthly, 63,690 yards cotton cloth. In 1875, the number of hands employed was four hundred and ten, producing 413,350 yards monthly.

At the East Village mills, one hundred and thirty-five hands employed, produced 23,479 pieces cambrics.

In addition to their mills, the firm carry on at the South Village, a large store, embracing every department, and in which are employed thirty-eight clerks. The total number of hands employed by the company is over fourteen hundred.

Samuel Slater died on the 20th of April, 1835, aged sixty-seven.

"No man of his time engaged in business in this country, was more generally known or maintained more highly his integrity for fair and honorable dealing; or whose moral worth was more highly regarded. His naturally kind feeling inclined him to acts of benevolence, and no one with a just claim for favor left him without partaking of his liberality.

"The extensive manufacturing business systematized and conducted here advantageously by Mr. Slater, has since been carried on under the direction of his son Horatio N. Slater, Esq., with equal success;" [and who, in 1875, purchased of the heirs of his brother George B., Mrs. Lydia R. Slater and William S. Slater their interest in the manufacturing business].

"The rise and progress of this business has made the town of Webster, and whatever belongs to its history and that of this family, is but a part of the history of the town."\*

At the date of the incorporation of the town, Samuel Slater & Sons owned and employed all the water-power in the place, with the exception of the privi-

\* Ammidown's Historical Collections.

lege then known as the Nichols Cotton Factory, and more recently as Fenner's Mills. This mill was located in the south-western part of the town, on the French River; and was a small factory containing three thousand four hundred spindles and employing about one hundred and eighty hands. It was burned June 11, 1855, and the water-power is now owned and used on the Dudley side of the river by Frederick T. Chase, under the firm-name of John Chase & Sons.

The railroad leading from Norwich to Worcester was completed in 1840, and the principal station of the place located in what is now the Depot Village. Previous to this time there were but few houses, and little or no business was carried on in the whole region now comprising the most thickly settled portion of the town. The growth of this village in wealth and population has been rapid, and due chiefly to the introduction of shoe manufacture, which was commenced here in 1843 by Henry E. Bugbee. He located in a room under the "Bradbury Tavern," or old "Railroad House," as it was sometimes called, and put out work for E. & G. Walcott, Natick. The shoes were cut at that place, then sent here to be bound and bottomed. At that time, and for quite a number of years afterward, shoe-binding was done by women, and bottoming by the workmen, at their homes, instead of in shops, as is now so largely the custom.

Mr. Bugbee employed from fifty to sixty persons in this work, and continued to represent the Natick firm until sometime in 1847, when he closed his business relations with them.

In 1850, he entered into partnership with James D. Tourtellott, and commenced manufacturing in the Sons of Temperance Building, near the juncture of Main and Lake streets. About this same time, Charles E. Brown was admitted to the firm. They then removed to rooms in Merchants' Block, and the business was done under the firm-name of Bugbee, Tourtellott & Co. They employed about one hundred persons, and made six cases of shoes per day, of a value aggregating from a hundred to a hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars per year. The business was continued by this firm for three years, when Mr. Tourtellott retired; and Bugbee & Brown continued until 1855, when the firm was dissolved, and Mr. Bugbee removed to a shop erected by himself, upon Dr. Barrows' property. He increased his business after his removal until it amounted to an average of some one hundred and sixty to one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars per annum, giving employment to from one hundred and sixty to one hundred and eighty persons. Mr. Bugbee remained in this last location until 1873, when his shop was destroyed by fire, and he retired from the manufacturing business.

In the spring of 1848, Emory E. Harwood of Oxford established a shoe manufactory in the basement of the Bradbury Tavern, and also leased the west half of the first floor and basement of Fenner's Hall. Mr. Harwood soon associated with himself Charles A. Angell, and the business was carried on under the firm-name of Harwood & Co. Additional room was then obtained of Mr. Lyman Sheldon, in a building near by. The business was continued



by this firm for three years, and amounted to about seventy-five thousand dollars annually. Suitable accommodations could not be obtained for their increasing business; and, being unable to manufacture to advantage in this location, they removed to Oxford.

Mr. Eden Davis commenced business here in September, 1848, and occupied the east side of the Fenner Hall building. He continued to manufacture but a few months, and did only a moderate business.

Early in 1850, James D. Tourtellott commenced manufacturing with Amasa H. Fisher, in the old "Sons of Temperance" Hall; but after a short time, Mr. Fisher retired, and Mr. Tourtellott and Mr. Bugbee formed the firm of Bugbee, Tourtellott & Co. He remained a member of the firm until 1853, when he withdrew, and organized the firm of Tourtellott & Corbin, William Corbin being his partner. They occupied a building near the corner of Main and Pleasant streets, afterwards used by the Union Store Company. The firm did a business of some four or five cases per day, giving employment to fifty or sixty persons, and amounting to sixty or seventy thousand dollars per year. This firm was not long continued, and upon its dissolution in 1855, Mr. Tourtellott moved to Thompson, Conn., and again went into company with Mr. Fisher. In 1861, Mr. Tourtellott returned to Webster, and engaged in manufacturing on Oxford Avenue, in a shop erected by Henry H. Stevens, Esq. He continued in this place until his decease in 1874. The amount of business done by him varied from sixty to seventy-five thousand dollars per annum.

Charles E. Brown entered business in 1850 as a member of the firm of Bugbee, Tourtellott & Co., and afterwards as a member of the firm of Bugbee & Brown, and continued therein until 1855, when he began business alone in a shop owned by the Union Store Company, upon Pleasant Street. He remained here until 1862, when he removed to rooms in Mechanics' Block upon Main Street; and remained therein until 1866, when he again removed to Pleasant Street, occupying a shop erected by himself. In 1873, he removed from this shop to the building erected by the Webster Power Company, where he remained until the destruction of the building by fire, in June, 1879. The average number of hands employed by him was one hundred, and the average amount of business was from one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars per annum.

In April, 1854, Mr. B. A. Corbin moved his business from Dudley, where he had previously been located, to Webster. He occupied a shop erected by himself at the rear of his residence upon Main Street. At this time he did a business aggregating about two hundred thousand dollars per annum, employing from one hundred and forty to one hundred and sixty hands. In 1855, he formed a partnership with Robert Humphrey and Edward Mixer. This new firm continued for one year, and did a business of about the same amount as above. From 1856 to 1862 the business was increased to an amount somewhat in excess of three hundred thousand dollars per annum, with a corre-



sponding increase in the number of hands employed. In September, 1862, Chester C. Corbin was made a partner in the business, which was done under the name of B. A. Corbin & Son, which still continues. The firm, from 1862 to 1870, did a business from three hundred and fifty to four hundred and sixty thousand dollars per annum, and, from 1870 to 1878, an average of three hundred and sixty thousand dollars, furnishing employment to about three hundred persons.

The same is true of them, as of all other shoe manufacturers; namely, the number of persons employed to do the same amount of work as formerly has been materially reduced by the addition of labor-saving machinery.

Upon retiring from the firm of B. A. Corbin & Co., in 1856, Robert Humphrey and Edward Mixer organized the firm of Mixer & Humphrey, and located in Merchants' Block. They remained in business until 1860, when the firm was dissolved; and Mr. Humphrey continued the business at the old place until he moved to the building erected by John E. Edmunds. He continued in this place until 1872, when he again removed to the shop erected by the Power Company. In 1876, he admitted Byron Burnham to partnership, and the business has since been done under the firm-name of Humphrey & Burnham. The business done by Mr. Humphrey, and also that done by Humphrey & Burnham, aggregated about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year, and now gives employment to about one hundred and forty persons.

In April, 1859, Francis Bugbee and John L. Harris commenced manufacturing, under the firm-name of Bugbee & Harris, in the east half of the Fenner Hall building, a room occupied by Eden Davis in 1848 for a like purpose. The firm continued in business until February, 1860. It gave employment to about fifty persons, the business aggregating about seventy-five thousand dollars per annum.

The firm of C. F. Barnes & Co. manufactured shoes in the Ames building for about two years, and afterwards in the Power Company's building, for a few months, when the business was discontinued. The firm employed from sixty to eighty hands, doing a business of from seventy-five to one hundred thousand dollars a year.

Warren B. Johnson commenced manufacturing in 1858, on Church Street. He employed about twenty-five hands, making two cases per day. In 1860, he discontinued the business.

Tracy & Bates and Corbin & Bruce, each did a small business for a short time.

With the exception of the cotton and woolen manufacture, this is the heaviest branch of business done here, and gives employment to more persons than all others combined. Not less than one thousand in this vicinity are directly or indirectly connected with it. A large portion of these goods are shipped to the West and South direct, the rest to Boston and New York.

The Webster Steam Power Company, a company formed for the purpose of

furnishing power for various manufactories, was organized in 1872, by James D. Tourtellott, Waldo Johnson, Henry Bixby, Marvin Wilson and Benjamin F. Smith, representing a capital of forty thousand dollars. The company erected a large three-story machine shop, 50 by 112; a three-story shoe shop, 30 by 80; an iron foundry 40 by 70, and a fire-proof engine and boiler house, containing a one hundred and twenty horse power Wheelock engine, and two boilers of sixty-horse power each. Later were added a grist-mill with a capacity for grinding fifty bushels per hour, a saw-mill, box shop, and other wood-working shops. By 1875, the withdrawal of the other members of the company, left the whole interest in the hands of Mr. Bixby, under whose personal management it still remains. The main building, foundry, and grist-mill were destroyed by fire, June 24, 1879, involving a loss to the owner and occupants about fifty thousand dollars.

John Gunn established a steam and gas pipe fitting shop in 1865, and an iron foundry in 1874, at which time he occupied rooms in the Power Company's buildings. John Flint has a large bakery, with patent "reel oven" and steam-power. It was started in 1841, and does business worth \$25,000 yearly.

J. D. Putnam moved his stair building and moulding business from Dudley to a shop erected by the Power Company in 1872. He was burned out a year or two after, and, in 1875, erected, on Chase Avenue, a building where he still continues. His annual business is about \$10,000.

A post-office, for the accommodation of what is now Webster, was established at the East Village and called South Oxford. It was continued there after the incorporation of the town, until about the year 1841, when it was moved to the Depot Village. Postmasters: Jonathan Day, till 1848; Chester Clemens, till 1853; Lyman Sheldon, till 1861; Augustus E. Day, till 1879; then Edgar A. Hill.

The Webster Five Cents Savings Bank was incorporated March, 1868, and commenced business the following August. The amount of deposits December, 1878, was \$268,675.62. Number of depositors, one thousand five hundred and ninety-three. The present officers are:—Frederick D. Brown, president; Edwin May, treasurer; C. A. Hodges, secretary.

The First National Bank was chartered Dec. 13, 1875, with a capital of \$100,000. The first annual meeting was held Jan. 11, 1876, and the bank began business six days after. The individual deposits for the first day amounted to \$33,705.44. The average amount of deposits for the first six months, was \$60,743.69. The average for the six months ending June 30, 1879, was \$85,543.73. President: Chester C. Corbin, Edward L. Spalding, cashier. Both of these banks are located in Eddy Block, Main Street.

*First District Court, Southern Worcester.*—Standing justice, Clark Jillson. First special justice, F. W. Botham, Southbridge; second special justice, William H. Davis, Webster. Sessions for criminal business, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Civil business on Tuesdays.



The Webster Gas-Light Company commenced business in 1865, and is controlled by the Stevens Linen Works.

Several attempts had been made previous to 1859 to establish a paper or printing-office in the place, but without success. In March, 1859, J. A. Spaulding commenced the publication of "The Webster Weekly Times," which proved successful. It has changed hands several times; John A. Dresser, Charles R. Stubbs, and John Cort having successively occupied the "editorial chair." The "Times" is fairly patronized and regarded as one of the permanent institutions of the town. In connection with the paper is a large job-printing office.

The "Webster Temperance House" was first opened to the public in 1844, by Nathan Joslin, and kept by him for several years. It was assumed by his son, Horace I., the present landlord, in 1856, and the name changed to the "Joslin House." It has always been conducted on strictly temperance principles, and is the chief hotel of the place.

The fire department, as at present organized, consists of one hundred and twelve men, and the following apparatus:—One steam fire-engine, one hand-engine, one hose company, one hook and ladder company. The department property amounts to \$23,565.66.

In 1867, the town introduced a system of water-works at a cost of eighteen thousand dollars. The supply is from pumps situated in the Slater Mills. In 1874, the School Street engine-house was constructed of brick, costing over ten thousand dollars. It is well supplied with all the modern conveniences.

The Webster Lodge of free and accepted Masons, constituted Sept. 10, 1859, has about seventy-five members, but formerly one hundred and ten. They have an elegantly furnished hall in Spaulding's Block.

Nathaniel Lyon Post 61, G. A. R., organized in 1868, has eighty-four members. It is in a flourishing condition, and has done much good.

The Sigel Lodge D. O. H. No. 93, a mutual benevolent society of the Masonic order, chartered March 24, 1863, is composed of German citizens, and has forty-two members. Its relief fund amounts to \$1,983.64.

Among the other societies are the Artesian Council, No. 95; Sons of Industry; Royal Arcanum; Temperance Societies, &c. A Library Association, known as the "Young People's Library," and later as the Webster Library Association, was incorporated in 1867, and still exists. Under its auspices the citizens have been furnished with many courses of popular lectures. A debating society under the name of the Webster Lyceum, flourished for several years.

The National Centennial was heartily celebrated on the 4th of July, 1876. Decorations were displayed in great profusion; a procession paraded the principal streets, and a national salute was fired at sunrise, noon and sunset, with fire-works in the evening. An account of the celebration, contained in a sealed metallic box, is deposited among the archives of the town to be opened July 4, 1976.



"Of the inhabitants within the territory now Webster, the most influential in the west part, in the vicinity of the French River, were a numerous family by the name of Wakefield, descendants of Joseph Wakefield, one of the early settlers of Dudley. His son Solomon was a Baptist preacher, and one of the pioneers of that denomination in this region. This family controlled the principal part of the water power upon the French River. Solomon Wakefield had deceased at the time of Mr. Howard's first purchase here (in behalf of Samuel Slater) of his descendants—William, David and Joel Wakefield, and Gibbs Dodge, who were the principal parties interested in this water power." Many of their descendants are still living in the town.

"Luther and Stephen Bartlett were also prominent men in this vicinity; while in the East Village the most enterprising men were Elijah Pratt, Asa and Samuel Robinson, John and Alanson Bates, and several by the name of Kingsbury; all men of considerable character and standing."

George B. Slater, third son of Samuel Slater, was born Feb. 12, 1804, died here Nov. 15, 1843, aged 39. At the time of his death Mr. Slater was one of the firm of Samuel Slater & Sons. He was a man of the strictest integrity and uprightness of character, universally esteemed and respected in this community for his urbanity and kindness of heart. He was prominent in securing the incorporation of the town, and in organizing its government, for no person shared more largely the public confidence than he.

Dr. Charles Negus, for more than forty years a successful physician, was born in Woodstock, Conn., July, 1791, and died here September, 1856.

Dr. John W. Tenny, a gentleman of culture and ability, who twice represented the town in the Legislature, and was otherwise prominent in town affairs, died here in 1848.

John P. Stockwell, a prominent merchant, erected the first store in the Depot Village. He was a man of enterprise, took a lively interest in town affairs, being town clerk in 1848, when he died.

John Dixon, one of the early merchants, represented the town in the General Court, and held various town offices.

Rev. Joseph Ireson, for many years a resident of the town, and for five years its treasurer, also twice represented the town in the Legislature and died here in 1857.

The town is fast increasing in population and wealth, and real estate is rising in value. The two railroads,—the Norwich and Worcester, and the Southbridge branch of the New York and New England,—which form a junction here, give direct communication with Worcester, Boston, Providence and New York.

# WESTBOROUGH.

BY REV. HEMAN P. DE FOREST.

## CHAPTER I.

TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES — PIONEER SETTLEMENTS — INDIAN TROUBLES —  
INCORPORATION — EARLY TOWN PROCEEDINGS — FIRST CHURCH BUILT —  
MINISTERS — PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENT — SEPARATION OF NORTHBOROUGH —  
MILITARY DISPOSITION.

WESTBOROUGH is one of the easterly towns of Worcester County, and is situated on the line of the Boston and Albany Railroad, thirty-two miles west of Boston, and twelve miles east of Worcester. Northborough, originally a part of Westborough, bounds it on the north; Southborough and Hopkinton on the east; Upton on the south; and Grafton and Shrewsbury on the west. Its surface is pleasantly diversified. The village, centrally located, occupies the southerly portion of a large plain, while immediately to the south and west rise low rounded hills, the highest of which is seven hundred and seven feet above the sea. In the north-east, there are also hills of nearly the same height. The extreme eastern portion of the town, as well as a smaller section east of Chauncy Pond, is low and swampy, covered with woods in which the cedar abounds; but, notwithstanding these swamps, fog and dampness prevail less than in some adjoining hill-towns, owing to a loose, gravelly subsoil through which the surface-water quickly passes away. The health-rate is exceptionally good. There are no large streams in the town, and the only considerable body of water is Chauncy Pond, a sheet of a hundred and seventy-eight acres, near the northern boundary of the town. There are a few smaller ponds, one of which, nestled in a dark nook at the foot of Boston Hill, was named by the Indians Hobomoc, after their evil spirit, and retains the name, although corrupted to Hocomocco. Another, in the extreme south, a hundred and thirty-three feet above the level of the village, and known as Sandra's Pond, has recently (in 1878) been converted into a reservoir to supply the town with water.

The little brooks which rise on the eastern slopes of the cluster of hills in

the south part of the town unite their streams to assist in forming the Sudbury River, while those on the west of the same hills gather themselves into the Assabet; and these two, receiving their names within the area of the town, pass around a considerable district to unite again in the Concord River, which pours their waters into the Merrimac at Lowell.

The Indians who originally held this area belonged to the Pawtucket tribe, whose headquarters were at Wamesit, now Lowell. Three of John Eliot's Indian villages lay just about this tract, — Ockoocangansett, in Marlborough; Hassanamisco, in Grafton; and Maguncook, in Hopkinton. The first white settlers came from Sudbury and Marlborough. Westborough, including Northborough in its limits, was originally the western section of Marlborough, Middlesex County, and, for some time previous to its incorporation as a town, was known as the village of Chauncy. This name originated from the grant, in 1659, of a farm in the vicinity of Chauncy Pond to Rev. Charles Chauncy, second president of Harvard College. When, in the following year, Marlborough was incorporated, the grant was revoked, and Pres. Chauncy allowed to take up an equal amount of land elsewhere; but the "village" which speedily grew up in the western part of the town took his name, and retained it until the incorporation of Westborough.

Marlborough was incorporated in 1660, and from the outset the westerly portion of its territory seems to have had special attractions for the settlers. Meadow-lands were especially valuable, since they afforded rich crops of grass without cultivation; and we find, in 1660 and 1662, the names of six large meadow tracts within the borders of Chauncy, which were divided in equal lots among the settlers.

Probably the earliest settler in the original territory of Westborough was John Brigham, known as Dr. Brigham, and father of the John Brigham who subsequently led the movement for the incorporation of Shrewsbury. He obtained a grant of land in 1672, situated north of the present village of Northborough, and including the meadows about Howard Brook. Here he built a saw-mill, and lived among the savages until their hostility drove him away. Capt. John Fay, subsequently prominent in town affairs, was early settled, with his brother Samuel, on what was called the Fay Farm, in the extreme west of the town, a part of the boundary of which still exists in the curiously-shaped western projection of the town line. This farm was previously owned by John Brigham of Shrewsbury, and by him purchased of a "Mr. Jones of Connecticut." Thomas Rice has been said to be the earliest settler in the territory of the present town, and he was residing at the beginning of the century — perhaps as early as 1675 — near the house now owned by Christopher Whitney. In August, 1704, an Indian raid occurred in the meadow hard by his house, where he and others were spreading flax. From the hill above, then thickly wooded, there rushed suddenly a band of Canadian Indians, who killed one boy on the spot, and "captivated" four others, one of whom, Timothy



Rice, afterwards became a sachem of the Cagnawagas, near Montreal. In 1711 this house was made one of the "garrison-houses" for protection against the Indians.

In 1672 a grant of land was made to Samuel Goodnow, who built a house, afterwards garrisoned, and the scene of an Indian raid in 1707, near Stirrup Brook, where it crosses the road from Northborough to Marlborough. John Rediet received a grant the same year, part of which was the farm afterwards owned by the first ministers of Northborough.

In 1676 Marlborough was devastated by the Indians, and all growth, for a time, checked; but, in a year or two, the settlers were back again, fighting with the hardships of frontier life, and with the wolves and wild-cats and rattlesnakes that infested the hills and forests.

In 1688 "Chauncy" had grown to sufficient numbers to have a strong influence in town affairs. Marlborough built that year a new meeting-house on the old spot, against the wishes of the Chauncy people, for whom it was inconvenient of access; but the town voted that, if Chauncy grew large enough to build another meeting-house and support preaching, it should be set off as a new town, and indicated the future line of division.

In 1702 a petition was before the General Court for the division of Marlborough, but was refused.

In 1717, however, another petition was presented, which proved more successful; and, after a careful adjustment of boundaries between the Chauncy petitioners and settlers farther west, in what is now Shrewsbury, the town of Westborough was incorporated on the 18th of November, 1717.

The territory included was essentially the Westborough and Northborough of to-day, excepting nineteen hundred acres added from Sutton in 1728, making the southern projection of Westborough, and smaller additions from Upton, and from Shrewsbury Corner as late as 1762.

At this time, Westborough was bounded on the north by Lancaster; on the east by Marlborough (Southborough was not yet set off; Hopkinton was two years old); on the south were Mendon and Sutton, the latter just coming into existence; on the west were Worcester and Brookfield.

It was stipulated, according to custom, that the new town should immediately reserve a suitable and convenient lot for the first settled minister; and it was to pay for the unclaimed land included in its boundaries eighty pounds, to be paid before June 1, 1723.

According to the statement of Rev. Ebenezer Parkman, the first settled minister of Westborough, the number of "first families" was twenty-seven, besides a number of young men, unmarried as yet, who took up farms. He gives a list of twenty-five heads of families and six young men, as follows:—

*Heads of Families.*—Thomas Rice, Charles Rice, John Fay, Samuel Fay, Thomas Forbush, David Maynard, Edmund Rice, David Brigham, Capt. Joseph Byles, James Bradish, John Pratt, John Pratt, Jr., Thomas Newton, Josiah Newton, Hezekiah Howe,

Daniel Warren, Increase Ward, Benjamin Townsend, Nathaniel Oakes, Samuel Goodnow, Gershom Fay, Simeon Howard, Adam Holloway, Thomas Ward, Joseph Wheeler.

*Young Men.* — John Maynard, James Maynard, Aaron Forbush, Jacob Amsden, Ebenezer Beeman and Jonathan Brigham.

The first town meeting was held Jan. 15, 1718. The first business transacted was a resolve "to Build a meeting-house forthwith," and the appointment of a committee "to wait on the Revd. Mr. Elmer, and to treat to Continue to Be our minister, and to proceed for his Comfortable Subsistence as thay shal see meet." Then Thomas Rice, John Fay and Simeon Hayward were chosen temporary selectmen, and David Maynard constable. In February a joint committee of town and State laid out the minister's "lott," or, more exactly, approved the one already set apart in 1710 by the Marlborough proprietors "for the benefit of the ministry in the westerly end of Marlborough, called Chauncy," and which consisted of "40 acres of upland and swamp west of Chauncy Pond," and "10 acres of meadow at the west end of Great Middle Meadow, near Hobamoka Pond." The early colonists had provided a law, approved by King William, that every town should be constantly provided with "an able, learned and orthodox minister or ministers of good conversation, to dispense the Word of God to them," and both their convictions and their first corporate acts were wont to be in harmony with this law, which thus laid the foundation of every new community in the institutions of religion.

Mr. Elmer, whom they asked "to Continue to Be our minister," had already preached to them for some time. The following notice of him by Mr. Parkman is all that is known: —

"Mr. Daniel Elmer, a candidate for the ministry from Connecticut River, preached here several years, and received a call from the people; but there arose dissension, and though he built upon the farm which was given for the first settled minister, and dwelt upon it, yet, by the advice of an ecclesiastical council, he desisted from preaching here, and, a quitclaim being given him of the farm, he sold it, and with his family removed to Springfield in 1724. He was afterwards settled in the ministry at Cohanzy, in the Jerseys, and, I suppose, died there."

On the 3d of March they held the first regular March election at which John Fay was chosen town clerk, which office he held for eleven years; John Fay, James Bradish, Thomas Ward, Thomas Forbush and Thomas Newton were chosen selectmen; Edmund Rice, constable; and David Brigham, who lived on the site of the future Reform School for Boys, was appointed to look after the boys of 1718 at meeting, under the awful title of "tything man."

After the meeting-house, the next public institution was the pound, for not having which the town was "presented at Concord Corte," in 1721, and which was erected soon after. The town stocks followed, for making which John Pratt was granted eight shillings.

The building of the meeting-house progressed but slowly. John Maynard and Edmund Rice gave the land, amounting, altogether, to an acre, and situated near



what is now known as Willow Park, east of the residence of Mr. B. J. Stone. This was near the centre of the town, east and west, but more than twice as far from the northern boundary as from the southern, a fact which subsequently caused trouble. In October, 1718, the town voted to raise the meeting-house, and also "to procure Six Gallons Rhum and a Barrall and a half of Syder for the Raising the meeting house in s<sup>d</sup> Town." Two years later the town was hurrying up the men who were behind in their contribution of materials. In 1722 £40 was voted to finish the building, and Sept. 9, 1723, £30 more was voted "to compleate finishing the meeting house." They had already used it for some time, the town meeting of Oct. 28, 1720, being held in it. It was a very homely structure, devoid of porch or chimney or ornament of any kind. A door opened at the east, and another at the west end. A double row of pine benches ran through the centre of the house, separated by a narrow "Alley Betwen the men and women through y<sup>e</sup> midel of the mett: house." Around these, next the walls on all sides, were reserved the "pew spots" for the chief dignitaries, who bought them and erected their own pews.

At the beginning of 1724 measures were taken towards procuring a settled minister, and in February they called Mr. Ebenezer Parkman of Boston, then a young man of 21, and granted £80 for a yearly salary, and £150 for a "settlement," to be paid in money, in three years, £50 a year, beginning with his acceptance of the call. They met, subsequently, five times, and adjourned because he had not sent his answer, which finally came in July, accepting the call.

In Mr. Parkman's diary are two or three allusions to the life of the day, which throw a little light on the time. In 1723 he rode to Westborough from Boston on horseback, leaving Watertown, his first stopping-place, at half past twelve, and reaching Westborough at dark. Returning after he had secured his call, he stopped at Hopkinton, at "Mr. Whood's," where he "fared sumptuously on roast goose, roast pea-hen, baked stuffed venison, beef, pork, &c." "After dinner," he adds, "we smoked a pipe and read Gov. Shute's memorial to the king."

But all was not luxury and ease. Indians were about. The peace of Utrecht was broken in 1722, and Mr. Parkman relates that on Saturday, Aug. 21, 1723, he walked to the meeting-house pistol in hand. At four o'clock an alarm was raised and people rushed to arms, but no attack occurred.

A church was organized with thirteen members, all males, and Mr. Parkman was ordained their minister on the 28th of October, 1724. Ebenezer Parkman was born Sept. 5, 1703. His father, William Parkman, was one of the original members, and afterwards a ruling elder in the New North Church in Boston, organized in 1712, at the North End. His grandfather, Elias, lived in Dorchester as early as 1633. Ebenezer graduated at Harvard College in 1721, and began to preach early in 1723. In July, 1724, he received his second degree in course, and on the 14th of September was married to Miss



Mary Champney of Boston. His life, subsequently, was all spent in Westborough, where he died, Dec. 9, 1782, in his eightieth year.

Two years after the organization of the church the history of schools begins. Daniel Warren and Edward Baker were the first school committee, chosen Oct. 3, 1726. They were instructed to procure a suitable schoolmaster, "to teach children to Read, write and Sipher, and to provide entertainment for s<sup>d</sup> schoolmaster During the s<sup>d</sup> six months" (the term of schooling voted for the first year) "and also to provide a place or places for the School to be kept in." The first schoolmaster — the schoolmistress was not yet abroad — was Mr. Joshua Townsend of Brookfield. He served the town faithfully for more than twelve years. His salary at the outset was £18, "he paying for his Diet," and in the depreciated currency of the period this hardly amounted to more than \$35. The schools were kept for a good many years in three different parts of the town in succession, two months in each section. School-houses were not built previous to 1765, although in 1752 it was voted to erect two as near as possible to each meeting-house, the town being then divided into north and south precincts, preparatory to the separation of Northborough.

In 1753 there were more than one hundred families, and the town was "presented" at Court, according to law, for not having a grammar schoolmaster. In 1765 the town was divided into "squadrons" for school purposes, the inhabitants of each squadron (or district) to determine by a majority vote in what part of the locality the school should be kept.

As early as 1738 the meeting-house, which was town-house as well, became too small for the accommodation of the people, and some of the settlers in the extreme north of the town began to complain of the distance. The attempt was repeatedly made to remedy the difficulties, either by enlarging the house or building a new one, or by a division of the town. No agreement was reached, however, and at length, in 1741, the North-side people began to hold meetings by themselves in the house of Mr. Nathaniel Oake. In 1743 they brought matters to a crisis by refusing to contribute their part towards Mr. Parkman's salary, greatly to the distress of the good man, who could see nothing to be gained and much to be lost by the proposed division of his parish. In 1744 a meeting of representatives of both sections was held at the house of Capt. John Fay, and a petition prepared which was duly presented to the General Court, and resulted in the division of the town, Oct. 20, 1744, into two "precincts," each to manage its own affairs and to constitute its own parish, and both to assemble for town meetings alternately in the meeting-houses of each precinct.

Endless strifes and difficulties arose forthwith in regard to division lines, ministerial lands, new meeting-houses and school-houses, raising the minister's salary, etc., which occupy the town and precinct records for a good while, to the exclusion of matters of greater historical interest. In 1738 the first Representative was chosen "to sarve for and represent them in a Great and General

Court of this Province, to be convened, held, and kept for His Majesty's service in Boston," and Capt. James Eager was elected to the post.

In 1748 the First Precinct proceeded to build a new meeting-house, using in its construction some of the material of the old one at Willow Park. The house built at this time is the one still standing, very nearly on its original location, and known as "The Old Arcade." Mr. Parkman built a new house near by, on the spot now occupied by the residence of Dr. Wm. Curtis. This house was afterwards owned by Judge Brigham, and is now standing just beyond the High-street School-house.

In 1766 the North Precinct became the town of Northborough. At the division into precincts, in 1744, there were only one hundred and twenty-five families in the whole town, of which but thirty-eight were in the North Precinct. But there seems to have been a rapid increase in the population after this division, for in 1767 Northborough had eighty-two families and Westborough one hundred and twenty; and in 1768, twenty years after the building of the new meeting-house in the First Precinct, Westborough found it too small for its people, although considerably larger than the old one which had accommodated the united towns. Five years later it was lengthened by the insertion of fifteen feet in the middle.

Military spirit manifested itself to some extent in the French and Indian War, in 1755. Capt. Benjamin Fay and Capt. Bezaleel Eager commanded companies, and one John Fay, who, if a Westborough man, must have been the grandson of the original Capt. John Fay, and but twenty years of age, was captain of a company containing six Westborough men in its ranks.

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## CHAPTER II.

PERIOD OF THE REVOLUTION — SERVICE AT LEXINGTON AND BUNKER HILL —  
SUBSEQUENT MOVEMENTS — GROWTH OF THE TOWN — PAUPERISM — HIGH-  
WAYS — RAILROADS — CEMETERIES — HISTORY OF THE TOWN IN THE REBEL-  
LION — ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY — OLD AND NEWER SOCIETIES.

In the War of the Revolution Westborough bore its share loyally. Much excitement prevailed here over the passage of the Stamp Act and the riots which followed, and in the following October the town instructed its representative in sturdy language, declaring the Act an infringement upon "the natural, inherent constitutional rights of Englishmen;" asserting that they "will not be active in putting their necks under such a heinous yoke;" but charging him to strive to prevent all riotous assemblies and violent deeds, and not to vote the town's money "to repair damages which we of this town had no hand in."

In 1772 the Committee of Correspondence, James Otis, chairman, published an address to the towns, stating the rights of the colonists, and recording the long list of infringements of their liberties. To this address response was solicited and received from the loyal towns of Massachusetts Bay. Westborough fell into line, and its response is worthy to be recorded alongside of those from Roxbury and Ipswich, and Concord and Plymouth. They declared that "under the present critical and alarming situation of our public affairs, there is a loud call to every one to awake from security, and in earnest strive to secure his liberty, lest he politically perish." "For no doubt, where tyranny is exercised, opposition becomes a duty. As our fathers could, so can we plead our loyalty: we have been and are now ready to spill our dearest blood in defence of our king, religion and constitutional laws; and we cannot but look upon it as a hard trial, yea, greater than we can bear, if we cannot be said to give full proof of our loyalty otherwise than by sacrificing those rights and liberties which we prize beyond life itself."

This address was signed by Phineas Hardy, chairman, and by Capt. Benjamin Fay, Ebenezer Maynard, Daniel Forbes, Abijah Gale, Hananiah Parker, and James Hawes.

The town paid its share toward the expenses of the first General Congress at Philadelphia in 1774. In June, the same year, a committee of correspondence was appointed, Jonathan Bond, chairman. Still more warlike was the purchase of a field-piece, "a four-pounder," with shot, powder, lead and flints, and the appointment of another committee to provision troops in case of alarm. Capt. Stephen Maynard was appointed commander of all the soldiers in the town; the existing artillery companies were authorized, and another initiated; their officers recognized, and recruits called for. The call for subscriptions met quick response, headed by Capt. Maynard, who subscribed £22 10s. old tenor; and a committee was appointed to go to Concord and hear the report of the General Congress, — the Rebel Congress which Gen. Gage could not disband, — and thus Westborough came to the front. Every man was expected to bear his part without favor. They refused to give an extra bounty to the minute-men, because "they expected no more of them than of other men."

Seven men were appointed to learn how to handle the field-piece "in a warlike manner, so that they may know how to conduct and behave themselves if they shall be wanted for our defence."

The old meeting-house was the rendezvous, and in due time witnessed the rallying of armed men within its walls, to march for the defence of liberty.

On the 19th of April, 1775, the courier came from Concord, and found the minute-men ready: hastily drawn up, and equipped with powder, bullets, flints and hatchets, they marched off, and arrived near Boston that same night, by way of Lexington.

Some of our men were at Bunker Hill. Thirty-two enlisted, under Capt.



Moses Wheelock, for eight months; seventeen more went in December, with Capt. Seth Morse, for two months; and eighteen in January, 1776, with Lieut. James Godfrey. Some or all of these went to Cambridge and Dorchester. They were with the gallant army that surrounded Boston in March, 1776, and saw from the earth-works on Dorchester Heights the evacuation of the city. Lieut. James Godfrey, with twenty-two men, was in the army with which Washington met the British at New York, after their retreat from Boston. From August to November, 1776, fifty men are enrolled, and sent to different quarters. On the 23d of July, 1777, Lieut.-Col. Wheelock, by order from Col. Job Cushing, called out half the "Alarm List and Training Band," to appear at the meeting-house armed and equipped, to march to Grafton and await orders.

In all, judging from the bounty list, there were three hundred and fifty-two enlistments in a town of nine hundred inhabitants. Of course, many were re-enlistments, and many came from out of town; but it is a patriotic record, and shows what stuff was in our fathers. The young men, from the minister's sons down, did yeomen's service, and the rest contributed, till they suffered, of money, and clothing, — spun and woven by the mothers and daughters, — and of provisions, until the war was over.

There were doubtless many who, like Lieut. Henry Marble, remained in the army from the 19th day of April, 1775, to the close of the war in 1783. Others laid down their lives, or came home unfitted for further work. The war of 1861 has fitted this generation better to appreciate the sacrifices of 1776, and to honor the memory of the fathers of liberty.

The growth of the town went on in spite of the losses of the war. In 1791 it had one hundred and eighteen houses and nine hundred and thirty-four inhabitants, and these, according to Peter Whitney's estimate, were industrious and wealthy, "as any one must naturally suppose from the appearance of their places and buidings."

In 1793 land was granted to Mr. William Johnson for a noon-house. It was situated "beyond the pound," which stood near the present location of Bates's Straw Factory. Here he erected an octagon building, with a generous fireplace in it, where the benumbed worshippers gathered between services to refresh the outer and inner man. This seems to have been removed afterwards to the present location of C. S. Hardy's blacksmith shop, and was finally taken down in 1818.

The meeting-house itself had been hitherto a bare and uninteresting structure, without chimney or belfry. In 1773, when the porches were added, the town bluntly refused to build a steeple, or even to have one built free of expense. But in 1801 Mr. Samuel Parkman, merchant, of Boston, son of the old pastor, gave the town a bell (now in the belfry of the Baptist Church), and a belfry became a necessity. In 1806 a clock was purchased and presented to the town by individuals, which remained in the steeple of the old church till 1842.

About 1809 the town graciously allowed Mr. Gardner Parker to put an organ in the meeting-house as an experiment; provided that if, after six months, the town did not wish it longer, he should restore the seats in the gallery to their former condition. This remained after trial, and was certainly among the earliest instances of the use of church-organs in New England.

In 1818 a powder-house was built in the corner of the old burying-ground, which remained there till 1849. In 1823 there was some talk of seeking their own comfort in church to the extent of putting in stoves, but it was voted down, and they were never used in the old church for any considerable time.

A military company was organized here in 1810, which came to be famous in the years following, and contained some of the best blood in its ranks. It was summoned to Boston in 1812, but whether ever in active service I have not ascertained.

Pauperism was not frequent before the close of the century. A few cases appear in the records, but it was very unpopular to "come on the town," and the town was very shy of paupers. About 1763 a memorandum was begun in the town records of persons "warned out of town," according to law, to prevent their acquiring a residence, when it looked as though they might become dependent on town charity. In two or three years this list includes thirty-eight names, many of heads of families. In 1767 a workhouse was build by the town, on land owned by Timothy Warren, thirty feet by sixteen, and one story high, for which the sum of £26 13s. 4d. was appropriated. In 1770 Geo. Andrews, Timothy Warren, and Abijah Gale were chosen the first overseers of the poor, and it was voted that the workhouse should be regulated according to law.

In 1790 the workhouse was sold, and for a quarter of a century the paupers were provided for (?) by being knocked down to the lowest bidder. Subsequently they were all kept for a few years by Mr. Levi Bowman, who lived on the old Upton road; and in 1825 measures were taken to purchase a town-farm, resulting, soon after, in buying of Capt. Daniel Chamberlain the one still in use.

About 1810 the Boston and Worcester Turnpike was completed and the great days of coaching began. The first tavern on the line seems to have been the house at the corner of the turnpike and Lyman Street. Soon after, "Wessonville" began to flourish. Capt. Silas Wesson built a tavern about 1827, and soon after a thread-factory was erected by Nathan A. Fisher nearly in rear of the tavern. This was run only a few years, and the building, marked by a small tower, is now connected with the old tavern on the Willow Park Grounds.

A store was conducted here by Fisher & Lothrop until the railroad stopped the coaches; and there was more stir and bustle, and for a time more rapid growth at this point, than in the central village.

But in 1834 the Boston and Worcester Railroad pushed its track between the

old meeting-house and the parsonage; and the turnpike, with its stages and busy taverns, gave up its glory. Wessonville gradually succumbed to the inevitable, and from that time all business interests have been more and more concentrated in the centre of the town.

In 1839 there were fifty dwelling-houses in the village, and the population of the town was 1,612. During this year the town hall was erected. It was at first a one-story building with basement. In 1842 it received a bell, and the old clock was purchased from the First Congregational Society. In 1866 the building, above the basement, was raised up and a story inserted.

The old burying-ground opposite the town hall was in use from 1704 to 1810. Before the separation of Northborough another lot was in use, situated near the present Northborough road, on the first cross-road leading to the right after passing the Westborough line. It is now wholly grown up with trees and brushwood, but the names of a few of the earliest settlers can still be seen on their stones. The spot ought to be put in order by the joint care of the two towns. The old cemetery in the village has suffered some changes of boundary during the years. One building besides the old powder-house has been erected on it, originally for the school-house of the first district. Some sixty years ago it was proposed to cut down the oak trees for firewood; but Capt. Charles Parkman came to the rescue, purchased the trees himself, and so preserved them and won the gratitude of future generations.

In 1810 a new burying-ground was purchased and laid out in lots; the one which now lies between South and School Streets. This again proved inadequate in 1844, and the present cemetery was purchased. Within a few years increased care has been taken of the lots and grounds, and it is becoming a more and more attractive spot, as becomes the place of tender memories.

In the late War of the Rebellion Westborough made a good record. The town held a meeting on the 25th of April, 1861, at which \$5,000 was appropriated towards the equipment and drill of a military company. This company, known as the Westborough Rifle Company, was, after two months of drill, attached to the 13th Massachusetts regiment as Co. K, and was three years in active service. This regiment was for some time retained for picket duty in Virginia. Two men died the first year, and in August, 1862, in the first important battle, two were killed and four wounded. The regiment was also in the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg. Other Westborough men were, in 1862, in the 34th Massachusetts at Alexandria, the 50th at New Orleans, and the 51st at Newbern.

The Soldiers' Sewing Circle was organized by 1861, by the ladies, and contributed largely in work and money.

In 1863 a number of our young men enlisted in the 56th regiment, and were afterwards, at their desire, transferred to the 57th. In the terrible fortunes of the Wilderness in May, 1864, they suffered severely. Four were killed or mortally wounded, and eleven wounded more or less severely; two fell into the



hands of the enemy. In July, 1864, the 13th returned home, having finished its three years' service. The whole number of men from Westborough enlisted in military service was reported by the selectmen in 1866 as 330; in the naval service, 11; number wounded in battle, 40; number of deaths, 24. The sum of \$23,920 was paid in bounties.

In March, 1866, the town voted to erect the monument, which now stands opposite the town hall, to the memory of the patriot dead.

The ecclesiastical history of the first hundred years is inseparable from the town history. Mr. Parkman's pastorate lasted 58 years, and belongs to the era of greatest ministerial dignity and authority. He was courteous and dignified, a good scholar for his time, and exercised full authority, as a New Testament Bishop, over his church. To the last, he claimed a veto power over the action of the church, and in the choice of his successor the church showed some sensitiveness in regard to the sentiments of their candidates upon that point. His sermons are quaint and forcible; sometimes quite original.

For six years after his death, which occurred Dec. 9, 1782, the church was without a pastor. On the 14th of January, 1789, Mr. John Robinson was installed, amid great pomp and ceremony. A committee of fifteen, headed by the constable, with his black staff, kept the doors and preserved order; another committee was appointed "to prop up the meeting-house." Rev. David Sanford, of Medway, and Rev. Nathaniel Emmons, D.D., of Franklin, were among the robed and powdered dignitaries present on the occasion. Mr. Robinson served sixteen years; but, lacking the courtesy and grace of his predecessor, raised, at length, a serious opposition, and, after a good deal of difficulty, was bought off from the terms of his settlement, and dismissed in 1807. He remained for some time, however, exhibiting a temper not altogether angelic, and making the pathway of his successor sufficiently thorny.

During the later years of his pastorate there existed some Methodist sentiment in town, and a society of that order had enough of an existence here, from 1798 to 1807, at least, to absolve those who brought certificates of membership in it, signed by an elder, from paying the parish dues, which the law otherwise exacted from all voters.

On the 26th of October, 1808, Mr. Elisha Rockwood was ordained pastor of the Westborough Church. His ordination day was also a high day, with processions and martial band and crowded house. His pastorate was strongly marked, and its influence is not yet dead. In 1816 the first Sabbath school was organized. In 1820 the creed of the church was first printed, each candidate for admission having previously read his own statement of belief. In 1823 a "Restoration" society was organized in Shrewsbury, and a number of Westborough people attached themselves to it, — partly from the uneasiness of the time, partly to get rid of parish charges. In 1827 the temperance question emerged above the horizon, and the church voted to use no more ardent spirit at funerals, nor on ordinary social visits; and to use their influence to prevent

its immoderate use. The town, in 1832, followed suit by voting to furnish no more rum to its paupers, except on a physician's prescription. Three years later the selectmen were instructed not to license any one to sell liquor at retail or in public houses.

In 1834 the Unitarian controversy was brought to a climax here by the necessity of building a new church. By advice of a council, the church voted, as a body, to separate itself from the First Congregational Society, and to unite with the Evangelical Society, recently formed out of its membership. The First Society retained the old meeting-house, and the others proceeded at once to the erection of a new church upon the present site, which was dedicated Dec. 17, 1834.

Mr. Rockwood resigned in 1835, after a pastorate of twenty-six and a half years. The church erected in 1834 is still in use, but in 1869 it was enlarged and remodeled into the present commodious edifice. In 1871 a parsonage was erected, partly by legacy from Mr. A. W. Smith. In 1874 the church celebrated its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary; three of its former ministers, whose pastorates cover most of the time back to 1837, being present and participating.

The pastorates of the church are as follows :—Ebenezer Parkman, 1724–1782; John Robinson, 1789–1807; Elisha Rockwood, 1808–1835; Barnabas Phinney, 1836, February to October; Charles B. Kittredge, 1837–1845; Henry N. Beers, 1847–1849; Daniel R. Cady, 1849–1856; Luther H. Sheldon, 1856–1867; Artemas Dean, 1867–1869; Heman P. DeForest, 1871—.

The first Congregational Society was organized March 14, 1825, in connection with the old church, and from that time the town ceased to vote the minister's salary. In 1834, owing to division of sentiment in the society, a large number withdrew, and the remainder, retaining the old meeting-house, installed Rev. Hosea Hildreth (Unitarian) as their minister, on the first of October, 1834. He resigned in April following, and the services in the old meeting-house ceased. The passing of the Boston and Worcester Railroad by the church made it highly undesirable as a place of worship, and in 1837 the house was sold to Luther Chamberlain for \$2,000. No services were held after this for some years, although a lot was purchased of N. E. Fisher, on South Street, in 1836, on which to build a new house. In 1847 this lot was sold, and, the year following, another was purchased of Draper Ruggles, and the building of a house commenced. It was finished and dedicated in 1849, and in March, 1850, the society voted to hire Rev. Wm. O. Moseley for six months.

In 1860, the society having struggled against adverse circumstances, and being in debt for their house, an effort was made to pay the debt, and by the exertions of members, and the substantial aid of the associations and of churches in Boston and elsewhere, it was entirely discharged. In 1878 the meeting-house was remodeled inside at considerable expense.

The ministers have been as follows :—Hosea Hildreth, 1834–5; William O.



Moseley, 1850; Nathaniel Gage, 1851-57; H. A. Cook, 1858; Benjamin Huntoon, 1859; Gilbert Cummings, 1860-63; Geo. N. Richardson, 1864-68; W. G. Todd, 1869-70; J. L. Hatch, 1871; C. A. Allen, 1872-75; C. W. Emerson, 1875-6; Granville Pierce, 1877; J. P. Forbes, 1878.

As early as 1796, two Westborough men were baptized by immersion in Chauncy Pond, and meetings of those who held Baptist sentiments were kept up, more or less, from that time; but it was not till September, 1811, that the First Baptist Society was organized. In 1814 a church of thirty-nine members was gathered. They met for some time in the unfinished second story of the house of Mr. John Beeman, on the Flanders Road. Thomas Conant was the first minister. In 1816 a meeting-house was erected at the corner of East Main and Lyman streets, now occupied by a greenhouse. In 1835 a new house was dedicated on the site of the present one, and the old one was moved in winter across the swamps to Woodville, where it still stands. After the division of the Congregational body, the Unitarians worshipped for some time with the Baptists, and helped in the erection of the new church. In 1860 a parsonage was presented to the society, which was afterwards sold, and the present one erected. In 1868 the present church edifice was erected, the old one being disposed of to the Roman Catholic Church.

The pastors of the church have been as follows:—Thomas Conant, 1814-16; William Bowen, 1831-33; Alonzo King, April to November, 1835; Otis Converse, 1836-38; Adiel Harvey, 1839-45; Silas Bailey, 1845-47; William L. Brown, 1847-51; Nathaniel Hervey, 1851-53; William H. Walker, 1855-58; A. N. Arnold, 1858-64; J. A. Goodhue, 1864-67; C. W. Flanders, 1868-70; S. H. Stackpole, 1871-73; B. A. Greene, 1875.

Mention has been made of a Methodist society existing as early as 1798. That did not survive; but, in the spring of 1844, the First Methodist Episcopal Church was organized, at first as a branch of the church in Holliston. In 1845 and 1846, it was connected with the church in Hopkinton, their pastor preaching occasionally in the centre school-house, the building now occupied by the Co-operative Union. In 1847 it was again connected with the Holliston Church, and so remained until 1858, when it was made an independent station, and Rev. J. C. Cromack appointed preacher in charge. Meetings were then held in the lower story of the high school-house. The present church edifice was built in 1864.

The pastorates have been as follows:—J. E. Cromack, 1858-9; W. P. Blackmer, 1860-1; S. B. Sweetser, 1862-3; J. B. Bigelow, 1864-5; W. M. Hubbard, 1866-7; W. A. Nottage, 1868-9; B. Gill, 1870-1; B. Judd, 1872-74; J. S. Day, 1875; Z. A. Mudge, 1876-78; J. H. Emerson, 1879.

The Roman Catholic church, known as St. Luke's, was instituted about 1850. For some twenty years, it was administered by clergymen from other towns, but since then has had resident priests. It purchased the old Baptist meeting-house in 1868, and removed it to its present location. In 1873 it also



purchased the valuable lot of land at the corner of Main and Ruggles streets, but has not yet built upon it.

The resident priests have been: Revs. R. J. Donovan, P. Egan, and C. J. Cronin, the present pastor, with his associate, Rev. M. Kittredge. Episcopal services were held in 1878 in Henry Hall, but have ceased.

The Advent Church was organized and its house of worship erected in 1859. Rev. O. R. Fassett was installed the first pastor. Rev. J. M. Orrock of Boston supplied the pulpit for some time, and was succeeded by Rev. H. Bundy.

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### CHAPTER III.

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY — STATE REFORM SCHOOL — LIBRARY — MECHANICS' ASSOCIATION — SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS — LOCAL PRESS — AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURES — MERCANTILE DEVELOPMENT — DISTINGUISHED MEN.

THE educational history to the time of the Revolution has already been sketched. In 1785 a redivision of the "squadrons" or districts was made, at which time the "Flanders Road" was made a district by itself. Four years later the territory was again divided, and the present arrangement, essentially, was adopted, modified somewhat in 1836.

The high school was established in 1854, but was not graded until 1870. Since then, with annual admissions and prescribed courses of study, it has risen to high rank, and its graduates find no difficulty in competing with young men from more celebrated schools in the entrance examinations of our oldest colleges. The other schools have been brought under the same system of grading, and under the charge of a superintendent of schools are becoming more efficient annually. In the last six years seventeen young men have entered college from the high school, some of whom have already graduated with very high honors.

About 1839 the Westborough School Association was formed, and a school established, first in the village and afterwards in the old Wesson tavern, refitted for the purpose. This continued for some years, with good success. The same buildings were used for a private school by Dr. J. H. Hero from 1866 to 1876.

The State Reform School for Boys is located on a beautiful slope on the northern shore of Chauncy Pond, commanding a charming prospect. This institution was planned in 1846, the legislature authorizing the purchase of a site, and the expenditure of \$10,000. It was intended as a reformatory and

not a penal institution ; and this feature of the proposal so commended itself to the late Hon. Theodore Lyman of Brookline that he at once gave \$10,000 towards the undertaking, and subsequently, by gift and legacy, increased his gifts to the munificent sum of \$72,500. And all was done so quietly, and with such shrinking from notoriety, that it was only after his death that it became known to whose liberality the benefactions were due.

The first building was erected in 1848, at a cost of \$52,000, with accommodations for three hundred boys. At the end of the first year there were three hundred and ten inmates, and the buildings were crowded until 1852, when the legislature authorized an enlargement, to accommodate two hundred and fifty more. The number of boys from 1853 to 1859 was between five and six hundred. In the latter year a fire, set by one of the inmates, destroyed the larger part of the buildings. The boys were temporarily provided for in Fitchburg and Concord jails, but as soon as possible were returned to Westborough.

After this time an effort was made for the better classification of the boys. A school-ship was designated for the older and more hardened cases, and three houses were provided on the Reform School grounds, in which the most trustworthy boys were put, twenty-five or thirty in a building, under a family government, and allowed considerable freedom. This arrangement greatly aided to make the school, as at first intended, reformatory, and not penal. But in 1871 the school-ships were sold, and the institution here was flooded with a bad element, which threatened to demoralize the whole school. Bars and bolts and penal measures became a necessity. In 1875 the serious difficulty was remedied by the erection of a new building, for which \$90,000 was appropriated, and which furnishes the means of classification so essential to the reformatory aim of the school. There are now three separate departments, — the correctional, the congregate, and the family schools. The two former are in the large buildings, but separated from each other entirely, so that the boys of the two departments only see each other in chapel on Sundays. The inmates spend four hours in study and six in labor, with, of course, hours of recreation, each day. The schools are well furnished and conducted, and the shops provide, to some degree, the means of learning trades, as well as of doing work.

The "trust boys" are employed on the farm and about the buildings. A library of between two and three thousand volumes is provided, and means of moral and religious instruction, and all elevating and refining influences abound.

There are now only two hundred and twenty-one boys in the institution ; one hundred and twenty-eight in the reformatory department, twenty-one in the correctional, and sixty-four in the family schools. A line of telephonic communication connects the school with the village. The superintendents have been as follows : William R. Lincoln, 1848-53 ; James M. Talcott, 1853-57 ; William E. Starr, 1857-61 ; Joseph A. Allen, 1861-67 ; Orville K. Hutchin-



son, 1867-8; Benjamin Evans, 1868-73; Allen G. Shepherd, 1873-78; Luther H. Sheldon, 1878.

In intimate connection with the history of schools is that of the library. On the 25th of March, 1807, fifteen of the principal men of the place met at Gregory's Inn, and organized themselves into a society called the Union Library Society, for the purpose of establishing a social library. Rev. Elisha Rockwood was president of this society from 1811 to 1828. Its regulations were strict in regard to the care of books and the admission to membership, the admission-fee ranging from \$5.50 to \$15. Persons not belonging to the society were permitted to use the library for \$2 a year. The society met at first five times a year, each member paying a tax of twenty-five cents at each meeting.

Mr. Chas. Parkman presented several volumes. The society purchased Rees' Cyclopedia in 41 volumes, and Mavor's Voyages and Travels; Life of Washington by Bancroft; Life of Washington by Marshall, in six volumes, with atlas; two volumes Silliman's Journal, Silliman's Tour, and Dwight's Travels.

In 1839, the books and property of the society were made over to the Mechanics' Association, on condition that such books as needed it be rebound, and the members of the old society be allowed to take books from the library of the Mechanics' Association without fees.

The Mechanics' Association was organized in 1838, and the names of forty-six members are recorded for that year. Its object was somewhat broader than that of its predecessor, including discussions and lectures. A donation of \$40 was received from Mr. Geo. Denny, and in 1839 the sum of \$86 additional had been raised by subscription for a library. In 1849 the library contained 175 volumes and a catalogue was printed. In 1857 the library was transferred to the town on condition that it should be replenished and maintained, and \$100 was appropriated for the purpose. Under the charge of the town's committee the library has prospered and steadily increased, until it now numbers about three thousand volumes. For some years the annual dog-tax has been appropriated by the town for its support, amounting to three hundred and fifty or four hundred dollars. It is open, as yet, only Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and evenings, and its quarters are very restricted, while its reference volumes are practically inaccessible from the lack of a reading and consulting room. But it is well patronized and much prized, and the needed improvements, it is hoped, will not be long postponed.

The Westborough Agricultural Society was formed in 1839, and is still flourishing. With discussions, lectures, and for many years an annual agricultural fair, it has maintained a lively interest, among others than practical farmers, in agricultural matters, which have always formed so large a part of the town's industries.

The Young Men's Debating Society was organized in December, 1870, and



is one of the substantial educational institutions of the place. Its weekly discussions, annual courses of lectures, and occasional entertainments give it more than a passing value to the town, while to its own members it furnishes an admirable field for training and culture.

In the autumn of 1878, a Village Improvement Society was started, which has already begun to do a good work in public streets and areas, and in stimulating private efforts for the care and adornment of grounds.

A Reform Club and a Woman's Christian Temperance Union have been in active existence for several years, and have rendered good service towards keeping Westborough what it has always striven to be,—a town of high moral tone, and free, in a good measure, from the open vices and undisguised temptations which so often afflict growing towns.

The first local paper, called "The Westborough Messenger," was published Oct. 13, 1849, by C. C. P. Moody, the Boston printer, who resided here for some time. This lived only a few months. In 1855 B. Winslow Packard, from North Bridgewater, started "The Westborough Sheaf," also printed in Boston, but with an office here. It lived less than a year. In 1860 an edition of "The Marlborough Journal," with Westborough titles, headings, &c., was published as "The Westborough Transcript." This continued about two years and a half, for the first eighteen months of which, Mr. Chas. H. Pierce of Westborough was its local editor. In 1866 the first printing-office was established by W. A. Hemenway. Soon after Chas. H. Pierce entered into partnership with him, and "The Saturday Evening Chronotype," the first paper printed and published in the town, made its first appearance. With several changes in proprietorship and a slight change of name, it has continued to the present time, and, under the management of Holton & Thurston, enlarged and improved as its prosperity has permitted, has come to rank well among local newspapers, while the printing-office has become an important and remunerative industry.

Westborough has always been an important agricultural town, from the time when its rich meadows attracted the eyes of the men who felt themselves crowded in Sudbury before 1660. It has to-day some 4,500 acres under cultivation, and an agricultural property of more than a million dollars. Its agricultural products were estimated in 1875 at \$226,000. Of these, the most important is milk; of which, in the same year, 451,591 gallons were produced, valued at \$76,696. Three companies ship milk from the station to Boston,—the Boston Milk Company, the Westborough Milk Company, and Cyrus Brigham & Co. Part of the milk shipped at this point comes from adjoining towns; but the quantity sent from the depot from April, 1878, to April, 1879, was 800,000 gallons, for which more than \$98,000 was received. This business has been on the increase for forty years, having in that time trebled in amount. It is estimated that the quantity produced on single farms has doubled in twenty years by superior cultivation.

This town has long been more or less a mercantile centre. Tradition has it that there was a time when Worcester people made their purchases at the old Parkman store in Westborough, Worcester then being the smaller town. The earliest "store" of which any information remains was kept in a small building erected by Capt. Breck Parkman, son of the old minister, between his father's house and the meeting-house. In one part of this building he resided and the other was the village store. This building yet remains on South Street, and is the residence of Patrick Cronican. In due time Mr. Parkman built a larger house for himself adjoining, and used the whole of the old house as a store. This new residence was subsequently enlarged and raised to three stories, and is now in the rear of D. W. Forbes's sleigh factory. Subsequently Breck Parkman and (Judge) Elijah Brigham built the store on Main Street now occupied by T. L. Mason and others, and removed the business there. When their sons became of age they dissolved partnership, and Mr. Parkman built the old store on the site of "Post-Office Block," where he and his descendants continued in business for many years. In 1833 J. A. Fayerweather opened a store in the house now occupied by Elijah Burnap, and a year later started a stove and tin shop on the site of the present Unitarian Church. In 1836 he came into the old Parkman store, where he remained, with various changes of firm, till 1858. In 1844 the lower part of J. B. Kimball's brick-shop was converted into a store occupied first by W. L. G. Hunt, now by Homan & Lunt. In 1850 a store was built on the site of Central Block, and soon after S. M. Griggs, associated for many years with Mr. Fayerweather, opened business, where he still continues. Dr. S. G. Henry built the old Eagle Block in 1855, and established the drug business. The building was burned in 1873 and a brick block erected in its place. In 1853 a brick building, known as Union Block, was erected by Davenport & Burnap, just across the railroad; this was burned in 1872 and a wooden one subsequently built on the site.

The first steam-power, aside from the small attempt at a thread-factory at Wessonville, was introduced by Geo. Denny about 1848, in a mill erected on Brigham Street, afterwards occupied by R. G. Holmes, and since 1859 by J. B. Kimball & Co.

From its small beginnings, business has increased until the present goodly array of stores and blocks around the square and up Main and Milk streets gives token, even to the passing traveller on the railroad, of a thriving town. The old Parkman store was burned in 1863, and the disaster raised some alarm regarding the inadequacy of protection against fire. The first engine was purchased in 1838, and was used until 1850, when it was exchanged for the one now used by Chauncy Company. The burning of the Parkman store resulted in the purchase, in 1868, of a steamer, which has done valuable service since. Again, in June, 1873, Central Block and Henry Block were destroyed, leaving the south side of the square desolate. The buildings were soon rebuilt, and,

like the block which takes the place of the Parkman store, are much superior to their predecessors. And the disastrous scarcity of water, which was the sole cause of the severe loss in 1873, has at length resulted in the introduction of Sandra Pond water, which is now capable of throwing a stream, without engines, over any business block in the village.

The manufacture of sleighs has been carried on for many years to some extent, but, till within about twenty years, only on a small scale. In 1857 a large shop was built, and Burnap, Forbes & Co. began to make about five hundred sleighs a year. In the next decade Forbes & Fisher carried the number up to eight hundred. The business is now carried on at this stand by D. W. Forbes, and the annual manufacture is about 1,000. There are three or four other factories doing considerable business. The census of 1875 represents the capital employed as \$35,950, and the value of goods manufactured at \$52,600.

The boot and shoe manufacture occupies an important place among the business interests of the town. J. B. Kimball & Co. began the business here in 1828, building a shop on the land of J. A. Fayerweather, opposite the house of J. W. Blake. A few years later they built the brick shop at the corner of Main and Milk streets. Since 1859 their business has been conducted in its present location on Brigham Street. The property is now owned by Messrs. Hunt & Kimball, and the business carried on under the name of Chas. B. Lancaster. They manufacture at present about 1,200 pairs of boots per day, employing two hundred hands.

Daniel F. Newton did a large business in the old factory on Cross Street from 1810 to 1860, employing, mostly out of the shop, from three hundred and fifty to four hundred hands.

Geo. B. Brigham has been connected with the business for some forty years, and since 1864 has been at his present stand. The business, now done under the firm-name of Brigham, Gould & Co., amounts to about \$300,000 a year, and employs three hundred persons.

Geo. Forbes & Son employ one hundred and fifty hands, and last year manufactured goods to the value of \$85,000.

Within the present year Crain, Rising & Co. have transferred their business from Nashua, N. H., to this place, and, although not fully under way, are employing two hundred hands and making 2,000 pairs of shoes a day.

The manufacture of straw-goods was commenced here in 1863, by Bates, Parker & Co., employing at first some twelve men and thirty girls in the factory, and two hundred and fifty sewers outside. Other firms entered into the business soon after, most of whom have ceased to manufacture. L. R. Bates, of the original firm, is now employing one hundred and fifty persons in his factory and two hundred outside. Sewing-machines now do the work formerly requiring twenty sewers. In 1878 the value of goods manufactured by him was \$125,000.



Geo. W. Smalley commenced the same manufacture in 1865, with \$1,000 capital. In 1870 he formed a partnership with H. O. Bernard of New York, and the "National Straw-Works" began operations. An additional factory was erected in 1878, at a cost of \$20,000, and the business now amounts to \$1,000,000 a year, employing seven hundred persons in the factory and as many outside, and manufacturing some 1,750,000 hats per year.

In 1864 the First National Bank was organized, of which J. A. Fayerweather has been president from the beginning, and S. M. Griggs and Geo. O. Brigham successively cashiers. The Savings Bank, Cyrus Fay, president, was organized in 1869.

Westborough, like many of the towns of Worcester County, has sent many of its sons forth to do a wider work than its own domain could afford. The brevity of this sketch will not admit of detail, and I only mention the names of two, of whom the world knows the history, — Eli Whitney of cotton-gin fame, born in Westborough Dec. 8, 1765; and Horace Maynard, late of Tennessee, now United States Minister to Turkey, who was born here Aug. 30, 1814.

This outline of the history of Westborough has reached its limits. It is necessarily incomplete, having been gathered only in the intervals of pressing work of another kind; but it is believed to be correct in all important matters. The author wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to those who have rendered valuable assistance; especially to the town clerk, Hon. S. M. Griggs, for valuable and constant aid in collecting material; to Messrs. E. M. Phillips, D. F. Newton, J. A. Fayerweather, Cyrus Fay, Rev. B. A. Greene, C. H. Pierce, and many others, who have furnished statements on special topics or rendered the aid of personal recollection, family record, or society minutes. The history of Westborough, though meagre in incident and adventure, is a history of steady and substantial advancement, of which, we may trust, the future will not prove unworthy.

## WEST BOYLSTON.

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BY HORATIO HOUGHTON, ESQ.

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## CHAPTER I.

POSITION AND ASPECT OF THE TOWN — CONDITION AT INCORPORATION — VILLAGES — RAILROADS — SCHOOL - HOUSES — SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS — RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS — WATER - POWER — BUSINESS ENTERPRISES — AGRICULTURE — TEMPESTS.

THIS town is situated seven miles from Worcester, by which it is bounded on the south, on the east by Boylston, on the north by Sterling, and on the west by Holden. In territory it is about five miles in length, from north to south, and about three and a half miles in width, from east to west. The natural scenery of the town is multiform and somewhat romantic in appearance, diversified with hills and valleys, and in all directions interspersed with springs and streams of water, suited to the wants and convenience of its inhabitants. Much of its soil is fertile, and, with skilful management and cultivation, amply repays the labor of the industrious husbandman.

Its territory was first settled, by white men, about 1720. It was incorporated as a town in January, 1808, from territory taken from Boylston, Holden and Sterling. The part from Boylston originally belonged to Shrewsbury, that from Holden to Worcester, and that from Sterling to Lancaster. At the date of its incorporation it contained 98 dwelling-houses, about 600 inhabitants, 160 ratable polls, and 105 legal voters. There were three school-houses, one church, one cotton-mill, two grist-mills, two saw-mills, one clothier's mill, one tannery, four blacksmith and one cabinet maker shops, two book-binderies, three stores and one tavern.

There were sixty farmers, ten or twelve mechanics, several laborers, one clergyman, and but one person of foreign birth.

The present population is about 2,900, with a valuation in 1879 of \$1,021,-110. Number of polls, 662; legal voters, 416.

The town is composed of several different villages. West Boylston proper comprises the Central, Valley, Lower Factory, Depot, and the old common

villages, and makes about two-thirds of the town. Oakdale covers also the village of Harrisville, and makes the other one-third of the town.

The Worcester and Nashua Railroad passes through the town, from south to north, with a station both at West Boylston and Oakdale. There is a post-office located near each station, designated by the same name as the station. The Massachusetts Central Railroad was laid out and partly graded about nine years ago, passing through the town from east to west. Since that time its condition has remained unaltered, with no immediate prospects of being finished. Should it ever be put in operation it will add much to the facilities of our manufacturers for transportation, as it is located in nearer proximity to our mills than the Worcester and Nashua road. As the town subscribed to the stock of the Central road the sum of \$46,400, it very naturally feels much interest in the road being, at some time, put into operation.

A town hall is one of the needs of the town, it never having owned one. For the past thirty-four years its meetings have been held in "Thomas Hall," a building belonging to the Congregational Society, and being the largest hall in the town.

A public library was established in 1878, with about 1,200 volumes, and with a good prospect of future growth and usefulness. For the present this library is only opened one afternoon and evening each week.

The town has ten school-houses; four of them are two stories and six of one story. The double and one single-room houses were built but a few years since, with the modern improvements of recitation and ante-rooms, and the several basements finished off for play-rooms, &c. The other houses are comparatively new; so that the town has fourteen fine school-rooms, amply sufficient for all its scholars, and feels pride in its school accommodations. For the past two years the town has supported two high schools of forty weeks each, and nine lower grade schools of thirty weeks each, during each year, and thus leaving three school-rooms not in use.

There is in town a Masonic Lodge, the Boylston, the dispensation for forming which was granted March 8, 1876. The lodge have fitted up and furnished very tastefully a hall over the Baptist church, for their use.

The "Centennial Lodge" of Odd Fellows was instituted here Oct. 24, 1876, and holds its meetings in the Masonic Hall.

A Grand Army of the Republic Post was organized here soon after the close of the war,—the "George D. Wells Post, No. 28." They have a very neat and pretty hall, located in the Valley Village.

There are five religious societies in the town. The first one formed was the Congregationalist, who built their first house of worship on the old common, which was dedicated, and the society was organized as the second precinct of Boylston, Sterling and Holden, Jan. 1, 1795; and in October, 1797, Rev. William Nash was settled, with a yearly salary of \$333.33. Mr. Nash remained until 1815, when he was dismissed at his own request. The society remained



without a settled pastor until Feb. 28, 1821, the pulpit being supplied by several candidates. At the last date Rev. John Boardman was ordained as pastor. In August, 1831, the meeting-house of this society was struck by lightning, and burned. At this time there were in the society two elements,—Unitarian and Calvinistic. The Calvinists being in the majority, and the business of the town having drawn more of its population to build and settle near the river, they decided to build on the north side of the river, and finished their house (brick) in 1832. Mr. Boardman remained until 1834, when he was dismissed; and Rev. Elijah Paine was settled, and remained until Sept. 14, 1836, when he died very suddenly. In 1837 Mr. Brown Emerson was ordained. He was dismissed at his own request, Nov. 6, 1839. Rev. Joseph W. Cross was the next minister, settled March 11, 1840, and remained as pastor until March 16, 1859, when he was dismissed. He has been followed by Rev. Messrs. H. M. Hitchcock, J. H. Fitts, Wilbur Johnson, William W. Parker, and Francis J. Fairbank, who is the present pastor.

The Baptist Society was formed in 1813, and their church was organized in 1819, up to which time they had not maintained regular preaching. They built their present commodious house of worship in 1832.

Since 1819 the pastors have been: Rev. Messrs. Nicholas Branch, Allen Hough, C. C. P. Crosby, Abial Fisher, Joseph G. Binney, Lorenzo O. Lovell, Sewell S. Cutting, Leonard Tracy, Kazlett Arvine, Timothy C. Tingley, Zenas P. Wild, George R. Darrow, J. M. Follett, Charles F. Holbrook, Edwin Bromley, George Colesworthy, Isaac Sawyer, and Alvan M. Crane, who is the present pastor.

The Methodist Society was formed, and they held meetings in the church on the old common, and in a hall at Oakdale, for several years before they built the present neat house of worship in the village of Oakdale, in 1858. Rev. David Higgins was their pastor in 1854, and he has been followed by the following gentlemen: Revs. J. H. Gaylord, J. B. Bigelow, J. W. Coolidge, T. J. Abbott, Daniel Atkins, Burtis Judd, Walter Wilkie, Wm. P. Blackmer, L. A. Bosworth, and William Pentecost, the present pastor.

The Catholic Society built their house of worship about twenty years since, but for several years had no resident pastor,—the place being supplied by priests from abroad. About six years since, Rev. Father A. J. Derbuel located, and has since resided here, taking charge of the society.

The Liberal Society was formed about the time of the burning of the meeting-house on the old common, in 1831, and they re-built the present meeting-house there in 1832, making three churches built in the town the same year. They never settled a minister, but, for a few years, had clergymen of both Unitarian and Universalist sentiments to preach. In 1859 Rev. J. H. Willis, Universalist, came here, and preached until 1862. With this exception, the society has had no stated preaching for over thirty-five years. Other denominations have used the house for a few months at a time, and the society has kept up its organ-

ization by an annual election of parish officers. The house is a very neat and commodious one, and stands in much the best location in town for a public building.

The town is favored with a large water-power, afforded by two rivers, which unite in this town, and form the south branch of the Nashua River. The first is the Quinnepoxet River, which comes in from Holden, and on which are three cotton-mills, described hereafter. The second is the Stillwater River, from Sterling, on which are situated the mills of the West Boylston Manufacturing Company. At a short distance below their mills these two streams unite, and, after flowing about two miles, enter the town of Boylston. On the main stream, at the central village, is a cotton-mill and large grist-mill. Below these are the cotton-mills now known as the Clarendon Mills.

Beside the power afforded by these large streams, there is a small stream called "Malden Brook," which affords power enough, nearly all the year, to run, first, a small mill with machinery for making excelsior, for filling beds; second, a saw and shingle mill; and below is a third privilege, on which there was a shoddy-mill, destroyed by fire about a year ago.

Over the large streams the town has five bridges. The lower one, on the Nashua, is a stone bridge of three arches, built in 1856, at a cost of about \$4,000. This is known as the "Beaman Bridge," and is a fine, substantial structure, promising to endure for many generations. Next, at the central village, is an iron bridge of one hundred feet span, built four years ago, at a cost of over \$3,000. It is also a fine and strong piece of work. The other three bridges are built of wood,—one over the Stillwater River at Oakdale, and two over the Quinnepoxet River at Harrisville,—all of them about fifty feet span. The town has voted to replace the one over the Stillwater with an iron bridge, the present season, and no doubt a substantial structure will soon appear in place of the old wooden style of the last century.

The first cotton-mill to be noticed is that of S. R. Warfield, on the Quinnepoxet River, and near Holden line. At this point a saw-mill had been established, and operated for more than forty years. In 1868, Mr. Warfield having bought the farm, with the saw-mill and farm-buildings thereon, commenced the erection of a cotton-mill, which he put in operation that year. It is a small mill, built of wood, with the capacity of 1,500 spindles, is run for the manufacture of satinet warps, and employs, on an average, fifteen hands.

The second mill, also on the Quinnepoxet River, is the new mill of L. M. Harris & Co. This is a fine substantially-built mill, of stone with brick trimmings, put into operation in October, 1874. The dam was built the previous year, and, with the mill, made a new establishment. It has the capacity of 4,474 spindles, and is used for the manufacture of light cotton sheetings.

The third mill is also on the same stream, and belongs to the Messrs. Harris. It is a stone mill, built in 1854. At this point a saw-mill was built by Henry



Holt about fifty years ago. A few years afterwards he enlarged his buildings, and put in machinery for making cotton yarn. In 1845 the Messrs. Harris bought the mill, farm, and tenements, and continued the manufacture of yarn. In 1847 they commenced the manufacture of cloth. In 1853 the mill, which was built of wood, was burned. They re-built, of stone, in 1854, on a larger scale, and had their machinery in operation in just one year from the time of the fire. This mill contains 3,648 spindles, and is used also for the manufacture of light cotton sheetings. The two mills employ one hundred operatives, and, with the tenements and houses surrounding them, are known as the village of Harrisville.

The fourth establishment is situated in the village of Oakdale, on the Stillwater River, and is an incorporated company, known as the West Boylston Manufacturing Company. They have a very substantial cotton-mill, built of stone in 1872, and a woolen-mill, built of brick the same year. The cotton-mill contains 15,000 spindles, and is used for the manufacture of various fancy cotton goods. The woolen-mill contains five sets of machinery, used for the manufacture of satinets. In these two mills the company employ 375 hands. They were first incorporated in 1814, for the manufacture of wire and cotton goods. The manufacture of wire was never entered into, and it would seem that no business of any kind was very energetically carried on, as the charter was allowed to expire by neglecting to make the annual choice of officers. In 1823 the company was re-chartered, and the first brick mill was built in 1824. Previous to this time there had only been a small wooden mill, in which yarn had been made. In 1825 the first looms were put into the mill, after which all the several parts of the work of making cloth was done by machinery in this mill, and the business was very successful for a few years. About the last of the year 1839 the mill was completely destroyed by fire. It was re-built on about the same scale the next season. In 1868 the company built an additional mill of stone, and increased the pond to several times its previous capacity, by raising their dam. On Sept. 7, 1871, the whole establishment was destroyed by fire, being the most disastrous fire which has ever occurred in the town. The company re-built, as first stated, in 1872.

Besides the waters of the Stillwater, this company control and utilize the water of the Quinnepoget River, by a dam and canal which turn the water of the last stream into their large pond. On this canal they have also a small brick mill, used for making shoddy. The company also control the waters from the Washacum lakes in Sterling, the waters in which can be raised, by a short dam, about four feet above their natural level; thus forming a large reservoir of water to be drawn from in times of low water. The company have also put in their mills a large steam-engine, for use whenever a dry season may leave them short of water-power. In addition to their mills, the company owns twenty-six houses, four barns, a large and substantial brick storehouse, and a brick store and house combined.



About sixteen of their houses have been recently built, and contain from two to four tenements each.

On the Nashua River, at the Central Village, is another excellent privilege and water-power. On the south side is the cotton-mill of E. W. Holbrook, who owns one-half of the privilege. On the north side is the large grist-mill of R. G. Cowce, who owns the other half of this power.

In the place where the cotton-mill now stands was located one of the saw-mills erected before the town was incorporated. A few years afterwards Ezekiel Pierce and brother, erected here a scythe factory, putting in the first trip-hammer used in the vicinity, and running their scythe works until 1831. In this year, Dr. John Smith and Ephraim Bigelow bought out the works, took away the scythe shop, and erected a cotton mill, which was finished and put in operation the following year, — Mr. Bigelow having made cotton yarn, over the saw-mill, for a few years previously.

In 1841, these mills passed into the hands of E. W. Holbrook and Oliver Eldredge, who owned them, and they were run under the superintendence of Mr. Holbrook until Jan. 9, 1848, when they were destroyed by fire.

In 1853, they were rebuilt by Mr. Holbrook, and were started up in 1854, since when they have been operated by him for the manufacture of light cotton sheetings. They contain three thousand two hundred spindles, and give employment to forty-seven hands.

On the north side of this power, a grist-mill, and a small clothiers' mill, had been burned in 1801. The grist-mill had long been known as the "Harthan Mills," to a wide section of country about them. A new grist-mill on an improved plan was erected at once, and a small mill, run as a fulling-mill, was also erected, and operated for a few years by Oliver Moore. It was afterwards used for a few years by Samuel Flagg as a machine-shop. In 1843, the Messrs. Harris, since removed to Oakdale, commenced the making of cotton yarn in this mill, and continued until 1847, when both the grist and cotton-mills were again destroyed by fire. The cotton-mill has never been re-built. In the upper story of the grist-mill, at the time of the fire, was machinery used for making twine and wicking; which, with the grist-mill, had been owned and run for a few years by Childs & Densmore.

Nothing was done about rebuilding the grist-mill for about three years, and a small run of stones, for grinding grain, was put into the basement of Mr. Holbrook's machine-shop, on the opposite side of the river, and run until 1850. In that year Mr. R. G. Cowce, from Gardner, came here and built the present valuable mill, which has the reputation of being the best mill, within a circuit of many miles, for making flour and grinding grains of every kind. For some years after its erection the upper story was used for mechanical purposes, — making of weather-strips, &c., — but for ten years past, Mr. Cowce has used, not only all of this building, but has put up additional ones for his business.

The sixth establishment to be noticed, is what is now known as the Clarendon Mills, situated on the Nashua River, at the place termed the Lower Factory Village. At this point was located the cotton mill spoken of as being in town at the time of its incorporation. The waters of the river are turned from their natural course, about half a mile above these mills, into a beautiful artificial basin; and after performing their legitimate duties in driving the machinery of these mills, flow through a canal for a mile below, before emptying again into the main stream.

The works were first started in 1793, by Major Beaman, to operate a grist-mill and a saw-mill. The grist-mill was in a few years removed to give place to the cotton-mill, but the saw-mill remained, and was in operation until about ten years since. The exact date of the commencement of the cotton manufacture has been lost, but it was probably about the beginning of the century.

Up to 1819, however, nothing had been done beyond making yarn, ready for weaving by machinery. All the cloth had been woven in looms operated by hand, and this had been done in families for this mill, some of them taking the yarn for many miles to their homes. In 1819, twelve looms were put into successful operation in this mill, and from that time no doubt the town can date the rapid growth of the cotton manufacture, which is, and evidently will long be, the leading industry of the town.

A company was incorporated for this mill about this time, known as the Beaman Manufacturing Company, and continued in existence until 1873.

In 1847 and 1848, the first part of the present mills, built of brick, was erected, and the wings were added in 1854. The old mill was cut up and moved from the old spot, and finished off for dwellings in 1848. The present mills being located some forty rods below the old ones, the pond was enlarged to more than twice its former capacity, thus covering the old mill-site.

Owing to the losses and embarrassments occasioned by the great Boston fire, these mills changed ownership, and a new company was formed in 1874, since then known as the Clarendon Mills. They have the capacity of 10,592 spindles, and give employment to one hundred and fifty operatives. They manufacture duck, sheetings, drillings and counterpanes; and are under the superintendence of Mr. George M. Lourie, resident agent.

These mills are very delightfully situated in what has ever proved to be one of the healthiest parts of the town; and with its pretty pond, buildings and avenues, lined and shaded by trees planted more than half a century ago, it strikes the eye of the passing traveller as a beautiful and romantic view. This mill, too, has a large steam-engine attached, of sufficient power to run about half of their machinery, which can be used at any time when the water-power may fail.

Another item in connection with these mills is worth giving. Miss Parney Underwood commenced work in them over sixty years ago, and has been an

operative nearly every day since; and at this time, by her active, vigorous appearance, gives promise of being able to perform her duties there for another score of years.

Next to the cotton, the manufacture of boots has been for many years the leading industry of the town. About 1842, a two-horse team was employed in hauling boot stock from Worcester to this town, where the boots were bottomed and returned. This business continued to increase from year to year, until there were one hundred and seventy-five cases, or twenty-one hundred pairs of boots thus bottomed per day for Worcester manufacturers, requiring the use of ten horses and four men for transporting to and from the city. The present season this part of the business is not as good, there being only about sixty cases per day bottomed for the Worcester parties.

In 1850, a boot manufactory was erected near the depot in this town, making about fifty cases of boots per day. This shop was operated by different parties, until about five years since. It is now idle. In 1856 a second establishment was built on the north side of the river, making from fifty to one hundred cases per day, up to Jan. 23, 1866, when it was burned. A still larger shop was built the same season, and steam-power was added.

Their manufactures were increased, so that over two hundred cases per day have, some of the time, been made. In 1878 this company failed; but soon after, making a compromise with its creditors, business was resumed on a smaller scale, and it is now turning out about fifty cases per day.

There are also in this shop, two hands employed in manufacturing machine-awls.

An establishment for the manufacture of ladies' shoes was commenced at Oakdale about twenty years since, which gradually increased until, in 1870, about twenty hands were employed, using machinery driven by steam-power. This company failed in 1878, and the shop is now unoccupied.

The manufacture of hand-made oak baskets has been carried on in this town for more than sixty years. Within a few years the making of large baskets for use in woolen mills has made the business of more importance than in the time when baskets were only wanted for domestic uses. In former times a two-bushel basket was about as large as any one wished for, but they are now made to hold twenty or thirty bushels, and the manufacture gives constant employment to about ten persons in this town.

There is one establishment in which steam-power is used to manufacture stop-motions or warp-stop machines, a well-known machine in use in all cotton-mills. Their manufacture was commenced about forty years ago, and has employed about four hands.

In connection with this work, the business of making school apparatus was carried on for many years previous to April, 1868, when a fire destroyed not only the building, in which the business was carried on, but all the machinery, tools, patterns, and guides for making the same, and when the establishment



was re-built the next year, only the manufacture of stop-motions was resumed. The manufacture of grain fanning-mills, was, for many years, carried on in town, giving employment to from one to three persons. For the past three years none have been made in town.

An establishment for the manufacture of church and parlor organs was commenced here about fifteen years since, in connection with the manufacture of what-nots, brackets, and other ornaments, and a small water-power was used for running the machinery. As this failed at dry seasons of the year, a small steam-power was added two or three years since.

There are now in town about eighty farms of from thirty to two hundred acres each. On these the business of farming, in its various branches, is nearly the exclusive occupation of their owners; while there are about twenty smaller farms, of from fifteen to thirty acres, which occupy the time and attention of the owners a part of the time, the business being combined with some mechanical work — the largest share, of boot-bottoming. Of the larger farmers a majority sell their milk, the same being delivered from door to door in the town, in which service there are six teams engaged for two or three hours each morning. In Worcester there are five regular routes supplied by as many teams from this town; and the large farmers at the north part of the town, deliver their milk to the cars at Sterling Junction for Boston market.

But a small amount of butter and cheese is made beyond home wants. The great grain staples of wheat and corn are not raised to nearly as great an extent as they were fifty years ago. Vegetables for Worcester and home market are probably the leading farm products of the town. From old records we learn "that in 1808, and previous to that time, not less than three thousand bushels of rye were annually produced in the town, with about the same quantity of corn and oats, and during the winter season the farmers transported considerable quantities of rye-meal to Boston, about 40 miles, for which they could realize \$1.25 per bushel." "At that time, too, large quantities of cider were made and sold for \$1.00 to \$2.00 per barrel. It was then considered a necessary article for common use, and almost every family used several barrels annually. Most of the large farmers considered a cider-mill to be a necessary appendage to their farm, and would feel themselves greatly deficient if not in possession of this convenience."

There were not less than thirty of these mills in the town; now there are but three. At that time, grafted fruit-trees were unknown; now but few trees of natural fruit are allowed to grow.

On Sept. 23, 1815, occurred what has been termed "the great blow," which was severely felt in this vicinity. It was very destructive in its effects, causing great damage to the community in the destruction of fruit and forest trees, buildings and fences. The fruit of all kinds was nearly all blown from the trees, while both fruit and forest trees were in large quantities uprooted and destroyed. Traces of this tempest are yet to be seen, showing where such

trees were uprooted. It was undoubtedly the most destructive tornado which has ever occurred in New England, as it extended over a large portion of it.

About five years since, a whirlwind or tornado, starting somewhere some ten miles south-west of us, passed through this town, making a narrow path of a few feet only, tearing up and twisting off trees in its course, several of which were of large size; but fortunately it only injured two buildings in its course, and those slightly. After passing through this town, it appears to have spent most of its force, but extended some eight or ten miles north-easterly beyond the town limits.

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## CHAPTER II.

THE TOWN IN THE CIVIL WAR — NOTED INHABITANTS — OLD BUILDINGS — FIRES — POLITICAL RECORD — PECULIAR SCENERY — COLD SPRING — VENERABLE TREES.

On the news being received that Fort Sumter had fallen, and that the president would issue a call for troops, an informal meeting of the inhabitants was called and held at once in the Baptist vestry, to consult and advise on the best methods to pursue in the emergency. The meeting was a very full and earnest one, all seeming, as one man, to be ready to meet the needs of the hour with all the energy and means at their disposal. There had been in the town for several years one volunteer military company, and some of the time two, and the town had, too, the valuable aid and advice of Gen. E. M. Hosmer, who for many years had been connected with our volunteer soldiery, which thus gave the town the advantage of sending many men into the field, in the first years of the war, who had seen something of military movements and drill.

A legal town meeting was held April 29, 1861, when it was voted "to appropriate two thousand dollars for the equipment of a military company"; also to pay the men for any time spent in drill, and to pay to the families of volunteers any aid needed while fathers, husbands or sons should be absent in the field. The town also chose an efficient committee to carry out the work. As a consequence, the town was well represented in all the regiments and companies raised in this county, all through the war; but, owing to the urgency of the calls for troops, men were sent as they could be ready to leave, and thus the town never had a majority of any company in the field at one time. It was represented more fully in the following regiments: — The 2d, 15th, 21st, 25th, 34th, 36th, 42d, 51st and 57th infantry; the 7th light battery, and 4th cavalry.

During the war, the town furnished, in all, two hundred and fifty-two men. Of these, twelve were commissioned officers, and two were surgeons.

The commissioned officers were Maj. Alonzo D. Pratt of the 34th, Maj. Addison A. Hosmer of the 28th, Capt. Pelham Bradford and Capt. Woodbury Whittemore of the 21st, Capt. Charles C. Murdock of the 25th, Capt. George L. Murdock of the 34th, Capt. C. Alden Pratt of the 42d, Lieut. William D. Toombs of the 2d, Lieut. Harlan P. Houghton of the 34th, Lieut. James Connor of the 42d, Lieut. Albert M. Murdock of the 57th, — all infantry regiments of Massachusetts volunteers, — and Lieut. Elliott F. Brigham of the 4th Mass. cavalry.

Of these officers, Lieut. Albert M. Murdock lost his life during the war. He was a very promising young man, only nineteen years of age, when he left the Highland Military School in Worcester to join his regiment the last year of the war. This regiment took part in the severe battles of Grant's march on Richmond, in which our young lieutenant showed himself a brave and cool officer. In the assault on Fort Steadman, at Petersburg, Va., March 26, 1865, he was almost instantly killed. His last words were: "Save the flag, boys." All the others of these officers, many of them serving to the end of the war, came home, and are believed to be now living and filling responsible places in life's duties and business.

The two surgeons were Dr. Franklin L. Hunt of the 27th Mass., and Dr. Charles A. Wheeler of the 12th Mass.

Dr. Hunt was a young man of talent, of a genial disposition, greatly beloved by all who made his acquaintance, and had commenced the practice of his profession in this town, and had been here about three years previous to going to the army. He joined his regiment at Newbern, N. C., in August, 1862, and while at Washington, N. C., and riding just outside the lines, Nov. 18, 1862, was fired upon and killed by straggling guerillas. His body was recovered, brought home, and buried at Douglas, his native town. He left an excellent wife and two children.

Dr. Wheeler had began practice and located here a few years before joining the army. He first went into the 15th regiment as a volunteer. He was appointed assistant surgeon to the 12th regiment in December, 1862, and served until July, 1864. He afterwards resumed the practice of his profession, and is now in Leominster, in this county.

Thomas Plunkett, color-sergeant of company E, 21st regiment, from this town, while bearing the colors of his regiment at the battle of Fredericksburg, Va., Dec. 13, 1862, had both arms carried away by the fragment of a shell, but, notwithstanding the great loss of blood and the delay in attending to his wounds, survived this great injury, and is now — seventeen years after the battle — a comparatively well and robust man, honored and respected by a large circle of friends.

Of the two hundred and fifty-two men who went into the army, about two



hundred and ten were, at the time of enlistment, living in the town, while the rest were men recruited from other places, or were assigned to the town by the State. Of the number who were residents of the town, thirty were killed or died while in the service.

During the war, the town paid out for recruiting and other expenses relating to the war, exclusive of State aid to families, the sum of \$22,584.90. In the five years of the war, the town paid, as aid to soldiers' families, the following amounts: — In 1861, \$971.50; 1862, \$3,600; 1863, \$4,727.90; 1864, \$5,600; 1865, \$3,600, — making a total for five years of \$18,499.40.

The ladies of the town were active and earnest during the war. By holding fairs, &c., they raised upwards of \$1,200 in money, besides sending clothing, hospital stores, &c., at several times, to the army.

To Maj. Ezra Beaman is the town indebted more than to any other individual for its existence as a town, and for its subsequent growth and prosperity. He was the son of Jabez Beaman, and was born in Bolton, in October, 1736. Jabez Beaman having purchased a large tract of land in this town, then a part of Shrewsbury, removed here with his family in 1745. He died in 1757, when his son, Maj. Ezra Beaman, became proprietor of the homestead, on which he resided until his decease, June 4, 1811, nearly seventy-five years of age. He was twice married, and by his first wife, Tersis Keyes of Boylston, had six children, two sons and four daughters. Maj. Beaman was endowed by nature with a strong mind, possessing a remarkable spirit of enterprise, together with great energy and resolution, which enabled him to devise and execute various schemes and plans, not only for his own benefit and prosperity, but also for the interest of the community around him. He possessed and held a large amount of real and personal estate, constituting him the wealthiest man in the town. His reputation for judgment was such that, whenever a project of a public nature in which the community had an interest was brought up for consideration, he was at once consulted as to its importance and practicability; when his judgment and expressed opinions generally had the effect to cause the adoption or rejection of the scheme. To him is attributed the laying out and construction of most of the public roads of the town and vicinity, which will show for all time the soundness of his judgment.

The inhabitants of Boylston having decided to build a new meeting-house, a difficulty arose in regard to its location, the majority choosing to build near the old house, while the minority, led by Maj. Beaman, insisted that the house should be erected half a mile north-west of the old house.

It becoming apparent that no compromise could be effected, the minority seceded, and built the house on what is now known as the old common in this town; they first got an act of incorporation as the "Second Precinct" in June, 1796, from the General Court, and in 1808 they succeeded in obtaining an act to incorporate the town of West Boylston. At the first town election, held the first Monday in March, 1808, Maj. Beaman was chosen as chairman of the

board of selectmen and as treasurer. He was also chosen as the first representative of the town to the General Court, and was annually elected to these offices for four years up to his death in 1811.

The dwelling-house erected by Maj. Beaman in 1764, in what is now the Valley Village, is still standing, although the main part of the building was moved, about eight years since, about thirty rods north of its old location. The L has been altered and adapted into what is now a large and commodious house.

This house was built in a thorough and substantial manner, of the best selected materials, and is still in an excellent state of preservation from foundation to top, showing that, with proper attention and care, it will endure for another century. At the time of its erection, in size, form and appearance, it was probably unsurpassed by anything of the kind in adjacent towns, or even in the county. It was for about a century known as the Beaman Tavern, and, during all of the time, kept by Maj. Ezra Beaman and his son Ezra, who followed his father, and lived in the house until his death, July 24, 1863, at the age of ninety-two years seven months.

The last Ezra Beaman never married, and in him passed away the last person of the name in town; and the large farm so long known as the "Beaman Place" was sold in lots, and passed into the hands of different persons. The main part of the house being too much in the way of one of the town line of streets, was moved as before noted. A large stone watering-trough, which for about half a century had been kept full of pure running water, for the supply of both man and beast, was moved to the opposite side of the street. Previous to this, wooden troughs had been here used for more than a half century. One of the large barns, of eighty feet in length, was moved across the road, and fitted up into a block of tenement houses, thus changing the entire appearance of this ancient and well-known establishment.

Maj. Beaman, during his life-time, set a large number of trees in and along the highways adjoining his lands; and most of these — elms, maples, button-woods, and others, — are now large, majestic trees, adding very much to the beauty of the town, and also much to the comfort of the weary traveler. One of the buttonwood trees, set by him when thirteen years of age, is truly an enormous specimen of its kind, being about twenty-two feet in circumference.

A few years since an effort was made to have the name of the town changed to that of "Beaman," and a vote was passed by a large majority in town meeting, instructing a committee, chosen for the purpose, to petition the legislature to that effect. But some opposition coming up, and the then representative of the name also objecting, the matter was dropped.

Robert Bailey Thomas, the widely-known founder of the "Old Farmers' Almanac," was born here in 1766. He died in 1846, aged 80 years. He married Hannah Beaman of Princeton, who survived him, and died in 1855,



aged 81. They had no children. Mr. Thomas was a justice of the peace, and surveyor, and for many years did most of the conveyancing and other legal writing for his neighbors and townsmen. He was a very liberal and public-spirited man, held many offices of trust in town, being the first town clerk, and was several times sent to General Court, as representative. He founded the "Old Farmers' Almanac" in 1793, and continued to annually edit that widely-circulated journal until his decease. He left considerable property, which went to nephews and nieces at his death. In the last years of his life he was the largest contributor towards building "Thomas Hall," and it was named in his honor. It is still the principal hall in the town, and belongs to the Congregational Society, of which Mr. Thomas was a leading member.

Erastus B. Bigelow, an eminent inventor, more particularly of machinery for weaving counterpanes, coach-lace, and carpets, was born in this town, and lived here until twenty-five years of age. His first loom for counterpanes was built and set up in the small mill, afterwards burned, near the grist-mill of R. G. Cowee. This loom, however, did not work successfully, but was afterwards perfected on his removal to Clinton. His older brother, Horatio N. Bigelow, was also born here in 1812, and about 1836 removed to Clinton, then a part of Lancaster, where the genius and business talent of these two men laid the foundation, and built up that now flourishing town. They were the sons of Ephraim Bigelow, himself a prominent business man of West Boylston.

Beside the fires before noticed in this history, there have been others which are now enumerated, with dates as near to the time of occurrence as can be ascertained. About forty years ago, the house of Charles Fairbank; in 1842, the house of Mrs. Olive Whitney; in 1848, the house of Luther Ames; in 1853, the Valley Hotel and hall of the Sons of Temperance; about ten years since, the house of Charles I. Peirce, and soon after, the house of Cyrus L. Knight; within a few years, the barns of Mrs. C. C. Cutting, Mrs. Catharine Maguire, Winthrop Snow, and Mrs. Abigail Warren, were burned; in 1878 the houses of Rev. A. J. Derbuel, Alexander Jacobs, and Joseph Jacques; and in 1879, May 28, the house of Mrs. James Fiske; and June 15, the barn and store-house of L. M. Harris & Co.

At the time of the fire which destroyed the mills of the West Boylston Company, the houses of Wm. H. Mason and John Jefferson were destroyed. These houses stood so far away from the mills, that every one was watching those nearer, to prevent their catching from sparks, and these houses had got to burning so strongly on being discovered, that they could not be saved.

At the first election held in town for State officers, in April, 1808, there were 85 votes cast for governor: 66 for Christopher Gore, 18 for James Sullivan, and one for Levi Lincoln. From 1840 the following number of votes were cast for the presidential candidates: In 1840, Whig vote, 169; Democratic, 36; Liberty, 17. In 1844, Whig, 138; Democratic, 37; Liberty, 66. In



1848, Whig, 56; Democratic, 27; Liberty, 201. In 1860, Whig, 5; Democratic, 66; Republican, 326. In 1864, Lincoln, 287; McClellan, 48. In 1868, Grant, 279; Seymour, 18. In 1872, Grant, 300; Greeley, 40. In 1876, Hayes, 304; Tilden, 88.

In the south-east part of the town, about one mile from the old common, is a curious depression of land, of about four acres, circular in form, known as "Pleasant Valley." Steep banks, covered by a growth of various species of wood, nearly surround it, giving it the appearance of a natural amphitheatre. The area is as nearly level as art could make it, and in the spring and early summer, its green carpet of short, wild grass, made it a very pleasing picture to the eye. It has been a place of great resort for parties of pleasure, and to travelers and strangers was ever one of the objects to be shown and visited in West Boylston. It has not wanted for poets to sung its praises, nor for artists to sketch its beauties. Of late years the hand of man has attempted its improvement, for yielding payment for labor bestowed; but while it may possibly pay its owner more in dollars and cents, its freshness and natural beauty, to the eye of the tourist, have departed.

No doubt, in the time long past, this was the bed of a pond, and at some time was drained by some underground channel, as in the spring thaws, a stream of water, requiring a jump to cross it, runs nearly to this valley, and then disappears into some underground opening.

About a hundred rods from this valley, and on much lower ground, at the edge of the interval land, near the river, is a remarkably clear, sweet, cold spring of water, known as "Cold Spring." The water continually bubbles up through quicksand, which gives the pool a clean, attractive appearance, and water as cold as ice-water; and this it continues to do through all the seasons of the year, with about the same volume of water.

On the road below the Clarendon Mills, towards Clinton, there appears a venerable oak tree, worthy of mention in this history. It stands within the limits of the highway, and has ever had the same venerable appearance since tradition has given its history, and no doubt it is several centuries old. In the laying out of five hundred acres of land to John Davenport, by the then colonial authorities, early in the last century, this tree was made the starting-point, and spoken of as a large oak. Its present measurement is, at the ground, twenty feet seven inches; at six feet from the ground, fourteen feet six inches in circumference.

# WESTMINSTER.

BY JONAS MILLER.

## CHAPTER I.

SITUATION AND CIVIL ORIGIN — FIRST SETTLERS — INDIAN DANGERS — SEVERE ECONOMY — FRENCH WARS — STRUGGLE OF THE REVOLUTION — LINES OF TRAVEL — DESCRIPTION OF SURFACE — SUMMER RESIDENTS — RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES — EDUCATIONAL PROVISIONS — ACADEMY.

WESTMINSTER is situated in the northern part of the county. It is bounded northerly by Ashburnham, easterly by Fitchburg and Leominster, while to the south and west lie Princeton, Hubbardston and Gardner. There are three outlying villages, South and North Westminster and Wachusettville.

The name first given it was Narragansett No. 2, from the fact that it was one of the grants made by the General Court in 1728, to reward the descendants of the soldiers who, fifty years before, had engaged in the disastrous war with the Narragansett Indians.

The company to whom it was assigned,—one hundred and twenty in number,—immediately met and appointed committees to lay out lands for meeting-house, training-field, burying-grounds, school-houses, roads and a lot for the minister, but the proprietors themselves do not seem to have been desirous of leaving the comforts of civilized life near the metropolis. They erected a house for general use in 1734, built a saw-mill in what is now Wachusettville, and at last offered a bounty of forty dollars to every family settling in the township under certain conditions; yet it was not until 1838, that the first settler, Capt. Fairbanks Moore, came to the place. Others followed slowly. The history of the time succeeding, until 1750, is one of privation and suffering.

One of the earliest settlers writes thus:—"A howling wilderness it was, where no man dwelt; the hideous yells of wolves, the shrieks of owls, the gobbling of turkeys and the barking of foxes was all the music we heard; all a dreary waste, exposed to a thousand difficulties."

The first meeting-house was erected in 1739, in "Meeting-house lot on the hill," now the public common. With the exception of the building of a grist-

mill, no public work of importance was undertaken until 1742, when, owing to increasing fear of attacks from Indians, ten forts were erected in various parts of the town. They were firmly built of square timbers after the manner of log-houses, while some were further strengthened by stockades. A sentinel was posted in each fort by night, and the soldiers patrolled the township by day. It was probably owing to this vigilance that they so generally escaped attacks from their enemy.

It is related, however, that one William Bowman was mowing near one of the garrisons, about one-half mile west of the village, when he discovered Indians lurking in the woods at a point which cut him off from his fort. With great presence of mind he turned and mowed a long swarth to the other end of the field, away from this ambushed enemy, then, dropping his scythe, ran for Graves' fort, closely followed by his fleet-footed pursuers. On his reaching the fort in safety, the alarms were given, messengers despatched and troops summoned, but the Indians escaped, and the settlers thereafter pursued their labors unmolested.

From 1750 to 1760 the settlement increased much more rapidly. In 1759 Narragansett No. 2 was incorporated as a district under the old English name of Westminster. The people entered at once upon the consideration of the then essential institutions of every well-regulated town, namely: a school-house, a pound, a supply of ammunition and the inevitable stocks. History records, however, that the latter were not built for many years. Following this was a season of comparative prosperity. Rigid economy was practised, the purchase of superfluities discountenanced, and idleness regarded as a crime.

Nothing better shows the spirit of the times than the following resolve, ungrammatical though it be, which the town unanimously passed in the year 1768:—

“The District of Westminster, taking into consideration the sinking state of the Province, arising through the manifold extravagances of the inhabitants; in the great neglect of industry, in still greater increase of our misery, in the extravagant expense of its inhabitants, in the purchase of superfluities; and fully sensible of the absolute necessity of industry and frugality, in order to save us from impending woe, to save our wealth, and to place us in a state of independency, do cheerfully and unanimously resolve, that from and after the first day of April next, we will not purchase any superfluities, and that we will take every proper method within our power to encourage industry and manufactory in our District; for we are fully sensible that idleness has a tendency to impoverish any community, and when attended with extravagancy brings immediate ruin; will therefore by all possible and lawful means, take every method within our power to encourage industry among ourselves, and take this opportunity to give it in direction to our Selectmen, to take special care that all idle persons among us be kept at some lawful business, and that the laws of the Province in that regard be duly observed.”

The French war gave the people no great uneasiness, and, as they were



a small settlement, they sent but few troops to prosecute the war upon the frontier. The following traditions are handed down, however. In the call for men in 1758, Richard Baker, William Edgell, Thomas Dunster and others, entered the service for one year, and marched first to Albany, then to Lake George. At the expiration of their term the commanding officer refused to discharge them, — whereupon they resolved to return home regardless of consequences. As it was midwinter, they made themselves snow-shoes, and arranged for an immediate departure. The officers held a council, and decided that the company, thus resolved to leave, should the next day be put under guard. Upon hearing this decision they determined to avoid humiliation, and early the next morning started for Massachusetts with such provisions as they could gather up. Their path lay through a trackless forest over the Green Mountains. They lost their way and suffered most incredibly from the depth of the snow, the severity of the weather, and the want of provisions. For days they were without food, and even killed and ate a dog they found straying in the woods; and it was said that, at one time, they resolved to cast lots to see who should be slain to save the rest from starvation. But some fortunate circumstances saved them from such a dire necessity. They at last found one of the head branches of the Deerfield River, which led them to Coleraine, and thence they reached their homes in safety;—an exploit which did not exhibit so much a spirit of obedience, as it showed the power of endurance, and the wonderful hardiness of our forefathers.

At the time troops were stationed in northern New York, twelve men, under Nicholas Dyke of this place, afterwards colonel in the Revolution and one of Gen. Washington's body-guard, were detailed to gather wood for the camp-fires. As they had but a short distance to go their arms were left behind. When at the point of returning with their loads, they were surrounded by twelve or fifteen French soldiers and captured. With arms pinioned behind them, they were marched towards their enemy's head-quarters. Arriving at noon at a stream of water, the guns were stacked and preparations made for dinner. It did not accord with the Frenchmen's ideas of politeness to eat without sharing the meal; so the prisoners were unbound, and by signs, — one party not knowing a word of the other's language, — were invited to partake. As the Frenchmen did not appear to keep a very sharp watch, Col. Dyke in a muttering tone of voice told his men to spring for the guns when he gave the order. At the word all started up, secured the most of the arms, and after a sharp struggle took all but one of their quondam captors prisoners. They marched them back by the same route they had just taken, and arrived in camp in time to get the supply of wood before nightfall.

At about the time of the incorporation of Westminster as a town, in 1770, the trouble with Great Britain became the absorbing theme. The people of the town, though fifty miles inland, were always ready to respond to any demand made of them. In 1773, they answered the call of the committee of corre-

spondence of Boston as follows: "We shall at all times heartily join with you in all legal measures for the recovery of those inestimable rights and privileges wrested from us, and for securing those that remain; for we are sensible that should we renounce our liberty we should renounce the equality of men, the rights of humanity, and even our duty to God and man." They forbade the constables to pay the Province tax to the royal treasurer; they adopted the recommendations of the Continental and Provincial Congresses; they agreed to support their share of the poor of Boston, who were reduced to penury by the shutting up of that port; and, in 1776, they voted unanimously that if the Colonies should be declared independent of Great Britain, "they would support them in the measure with their lives and fortunes."

Their word was good, for at the first call three companies were raised, and, commanded by Capts. Elisha Jackson, John Estarbrook and Noah Miles, immediately marched for the scene of action, and more or less of the Westminster men were in almost every campaign of the war. They were at Lexington, at Bennington, and particularly in the campaigns in Rhode Island. The history of the time during the war exhibits a long-continued, persevering struggle. The furnishing of a certain quota of troops and supplies for the army, the poverty and destitution of the people, and the depreciated state of the paper money, became burdens that pressed upon them most grievously. Yet they bore up under all, and the town gradually increased in wealth and population, until in 1800 it numbered about thirteen hundred.

Westminster was situated on the old post road from Brattleborough to Boston, and an important line of travel passed through the town. The stages from Brattleborough and Greenfield ran daily in both directions. The teams of the country merchants wended their way to the metropolis for a supply of West India goods and other merchandise. The wagons of the farmers carrying their produce "down to Boston" lumbered through the street, and made it a busy thoroughfare. During the summer and fall the scene at the old tavern was a lively one, as sometimes forty or fifty teams "put up" for the night. Then lawyers, doctors, ministers, farmers, merchants, teamsters and travelers met as they rarely meet nowadays.

The opening of the Cheshire and the Vermont and Massachusetts railroads diverted travel from the town in a great measure, as the depot is two and one-half miles from the centre of the town. Since this time the population has decreased somewhat. In 1855 it numbered 1,979. At the last census the number returned was about 1,700.

Though not noted as a business centre Westminster is a favorite place of resort in summer. It is elevated eleven hundred feet above tide-water, the highest of any town in the county, excepting Princeton, and lies upon the ridge of land stretching between the Monadnock and Wachusett mountains. This gives the town some of the pleasantest natural scenery. The view from Graves' Hill is scarcely equaled in the State. Hills and valleys, blue sheets of



water and winding streams, green fields and dark pine forests, numerous farm-houses and half a dozen thriving towns and villages, make up the landscape as far as the eye can reach, while thirty miles away old Monadnock stands like a watch-tower in the northern horizon. The scene does not present the wildness of the Berkshire Hills, nor the grandeur of the White Mountains, but the quiet, peaceful beauty peculiar to the New England town among the hills.

The accommodations at the hotel and among the farmers are ample, and every returning summer brings many visitors from various parts of the country. Some have come so regularly that their faces are confidently looked for every midsummer, and often whole families find new homes among us for a few months, and enjoy the quiet and the new sights to be found in the country. Not only are the drives remarkably varied, furnishing a different ride for every day in the week, but some of them interesting of themselves and to be remembered for a lifetime. Noticeable among these is the one to the Wachusett Mountain; by the shortest route, the one through Everettville and by the new carriage road upon its northern side, a ride of only an hour and a half is required to reach its summit. At the base of the mountain lies Wachusett Lake, near which a fine park has been fitted up for the accommodation of pleasure excursions. Every summer the shores of the lake are dotted with the tents of tourists and pleasure-seekers "camping out."

The general health of the inhabitants is remarkably good. The water is pure and the air salubrious and invigorating. The records of mortality show many cases of noteworthy longevity, two persons, at least, having reached the age of one hundred years. Few towns of the same population can present as long a list of aged people. This year, at the old folks' picnic held in the Wachusett Park, it was found that 130 residents of the town were over seventy years of age.

There are three religious societies in the town — the Congregationalist, Baptist and Universalist. The early history of the former is interwoven with the early history of the town. As before mentioned, only two years after the first family settled the meeting-house was built. In 1742 the first regular preacher, Rev. Elisha Marsh, was ordained, at a salary of \$150 a year, in addition to the land to which he was entitled by the grant. After a pastorate of fifteen years he was dismissed. Rev. Asaph Rice was the longest settled pastor, remaining connected with the church for fifty years. He died mourned and beloved by all. His colleague and successor, Rev. Cyrus Mann, enjoyed a prosperous pastorate of twenty-six years. He is described as a clear, solid and logical preacher, always presenting earnest, well-studied and able, though to a large extent doctrinal sermons. He was thoroughly orthodox, and did much to strengthen the church. Since Mr. Mann's dismissal in 1841 quite a number of pastors have been settled, of whom limited space forbids mention. The present membership is about two hundred. Rev. C. E. Coolidge is pastor. The church has had three meeting-houses, two upon the hill, and the present one, dedicated in 1837, situated in the village.



The Baptist Society was organized in 1827. It consisted of thirty members who had previously worshipped with the church of the same denomination in Princeton. In 1829 the old brick meeting-house was erected near the north-eastern shore of Westminster Pond. A year and a half later Rev. Appleton Morse was ordained pastor. At the end of nine months he was succeeded by Rev. Amasa Sanderson, and he by Revs. David Wright, Caleb Brown, George D. Felton, and others. The present house of worship, situated on the street, was dedicated in 1864. In 1871 the vestry, spire, bell and clock were added. Number of members, one hundred. Rev. Joseph Barber is pastor.

In 1816 the Society of Universal Restorationists was formed, and having erected a meeting-house, Rev. Levi Briggs was installed pastor in 1822. Two years later Rev. Charles Hudson took pastoral charge of the church, and continued this relation until 1842, eighteen years. He was a stirring citizen as well as an able preacher, served six years in the Legislature, and represented the district eight years in Congress. Revs. Paul Dean, Varnum Lincoln, Quincy Whitney, and others, have acted as pastors.

The first appropriation for educational purposes was one of \$20, made in 1757. It was invested in sustaining a moving school, whose sessions were held in private houses in various parts of the town.

The growth of the schools kept pace with the growth of the town. At first one was sufficient for all, then five districts were made and houses built, and now there are twelve in various parts of the town, with scholars numbering about 268.

In 1829 the Westminster Academy was established, and under the care of excellent instructors enjoyed a long season of prosperity, calling scholars from all parts of the country. At one time the attendance numbered nearly two hundred, and pupils were fitted for Amherst, Harvard and Dartmouth Colleges. But owing to the founding of numerous high schools in adjoining towns, interest in it gradually declined, and in 1872 the academy building was bought by the town and fitted up as a high school.

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## CHAPTER II.

OCCUPATIONS — MANUFACTURERS — BANK AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS — MILITARY — ANTI-SLAVERY FEELING — ACTION ON THE OPENING OF THE REBELLION — GEN. NELSON A. MILES — OTHER CITIZENS OF EMINENCE — PROFESSIONAL MEN.

THE larger part of the people of Westminster are engaged in farming, for the uneven, hilly surface has a good soil, well adapted to the growing of a variety of important crops.

The manufactures of the town were once varied and quite extensive, for

there was a time when the people made almost everything they used, and home industries, and those alone, were encouraged. The first mill of any kind was the saw-mill, built at Wachusettville in 1736. As the number of inhabitants increased there were built various kinds of shops and mills to meet the demand of the times. Phineas Leonard & Brother had a forge and trip hammer. A carding-machine and fulling-mill was built at the "Narrows." Potash was made in as many as three places, while the town at one time had not less than ten blacksmith's shops. Cider-mills were found in almost every neighborhood, and the manufacture of these, with their ponderous wooden screws, gave several of the townspeople employment during the autumnal months. The farmers turned the sod with home-made iron-shod plows and shovels. Pails and all kinds of cooper's ware then in use were made, not only for their own families, but for sale in other places. Tradition has it that the first chair ever made in the place — one of the right-angled, flag-bottomed kind — was made by Nathan Wheeler, while Almon Derby is believed to have manufactured the first modern wood-seated one, in a shop by the outlet of the Westminster Pond. Above the house at present occupied by Mr. James Bruce can be seen the foundations of a mill which was built and used for the manufacture of linseed oil. At one time there were two tanneries in the centre, and one in the village to the north, or "Scrabble Hollow," as it is called. Westminster was one of the first places in the State in which the straw-braid business was carried on. It soon became one of the most important industries of the place, giving employment to the people in their homes, and bringing them from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars per year; but the business has now entirely ceased in this vicinity.

At present the principal manufactures are paper and chairs. The paper-mills are situated in Wachusettville, and have done a large business for many years. They are owned by Franklin Wyman. The principal chair factories are those of Artemas Merriam, in South Westminster, and of Nicholas Brothers, in the village proper. Other factories, in which some business is done, are owned by George Smith, Caleb Merriam and Edward Noyes. Mr. Lombard, at Scrabble Hollow, also has a shop for the manufacture of chairs, buttons, combs, &c.

Damon & Burnham have one of the largest cracker bakeries in the country, sending their teams with "Westminster bread" to almost every town and village within twenty miles. Preston Ellis has built up an extensive business in making first-class preserves, and supplies leading hotels in Boston, Providence and Worcester.

The Westminster National Bank was established in 1875, with D. C. Miles, president, and William Mayo, cashier. Capital, \$100,000.

There are four stores and a post-office in the village, and post-offices at South Westminster and at the depot. The grist-mills of Adams & Giles and of E. H. Merriam do a good business in their line.

A lodge of Good Templars, with a large membership, is sustained. There are two fire-engines, one stationed at the Centre and the other at Wachusettville, the former of which is manned by a well-organized and efficient company of sixty men.

A brass band was formed in 1876, and is now in a flourishing condition.

When it was customary to drink intoxicating liquors at weddings and funerals, ordinations and social gatherings, the people of Westminster followed the fashion. The first open action taken in the matter was the public reading of Dr. Lyman Beecher's six sermons on intemperance, in 1828. A great triumph was achieved when the Academy building was raised without liquors. In 1829 the first Temperance Society was formed, which became a part of the American Temperance Society, with principles of total abstinence. The subject has been agitated ever since, and a strong anti-rum sentiment has been created and sustained, so that at present there is no licensed place for the sale of liquors in the town. The Westminster Hotel, Merrick Puffer, proprietor, is a strictly temperance house.

Westminster has always taken great interest in her military organizations. After the war of the Revolution, two companies, called the North and South militia companies, were formed. In 1816 the Rifle Company succeeded these, and until 1840 was noted as one of the best drilled and most prosperous organizations in this vicinity. This, in turn, was succeeded by the Westminster Guards, which disbanded a few years before the war of the Rebellion.

From the close of the war a good company was maintained until 1875, when the General Court voted to disband thirty-two companies; and it is worthy of note that though it came in the list, it was the last one sacrificed.

When the subject of slavery was first agitated, like the majority of inland towns, Westminster was indifferent, but soon wheeled round and espoused the cause of the oppressed. In 1845 William Lloyd Garrison gave a number of lectures, which aroused great feeling on the subject. He introduced his paper, the "Liberator," and though few agreed fully with his sentiments, yet he established an intense anti-slavery feeling. The leaders in this movement were Dea. Edward and George Kendall, Dea. Joel Merriam, Hon. Joel Merriam, Jr., William Heywood, Dea. Robert Peckham, Dea. J. T. Everett, George Miles, Benjamin Wyman, Alfred Wyman, Calvin Whitney, and others. Among the lecturers were Abby Kelly, the Misses Grimke of South Carolina, Sally Holly, a Mr. Goodyear, and Henry B. Stanton. A society was soon formed, and the house of Dea. Peckham became the anti-slavery headquarters. Often visiting speakers stopped there by the week at a time, and often was the fleeing slave there sheltered and fed, and aided on his way towards Canada. The war began, and found no military organization in town. Instead of waiting for some one to come forward and raise a company, volunteers immediately enlisted in adjoining towns. Never was the exhibition of patriotism more marked. Sons parted from mothers, husbands from wives and families, and



friends from friends. Westminster gave her best blood—her dearest treasures. One hundred and three volunteers enlisted, the greater part entering the 2d, 15th, 21st, 25th, 31st, 36th and 53d regiments. Seventeen went as substitutes, making a total of one hundred and twenty from a town whose registered voters numbered between four and five hundred. During all the four years she kept more than her full quota of men in the field, and has the honor of having contributed as many soldiers in proportion to the number of her inhabitants as any town in the Union. As the Westminster men were so scattered, few gained commissions. Joseph E. Rice, killed at Chantilly, held the office of colonel; Cyrus K. Miller, an Illinois volunteer, was first lieutenant when he died near Vicksburg; while Amos B. Holden and A. E. Drury held the position of first lieutenant at the close of the war. Thirty-four of the Westminster men never returned. Of these quite a large proportion died of starvation in Andersonville and Libby prisons.

In 1868 a beautiful granite monument, pleasantly situated in the centre village, was dedicated in memory of the fallen heroes. The upper room of the Town House also has been fitted up as a memorial hall, where the pictures of nearly all the lost are placed.

A post of the Grand Army of the Republic was established in 1868, with the name of "Post 69, Jos. E. Rice Encampment," and numbering about thirty members, sustained by the resident veterans.

Of the former residents who enlisted, Charles E. Cummings became a colonel in command of Vermont volunteers; and John Hudson held the office of lieutenant-colonel.

The man who gained the greatest fame and rose to the highest rank of all the sons of Westminster was Maj. Gen. Nelson A. Miles. Gen. Miles was born in the easterly part of the town, near Wachusettville. Receiving a fair education, he entered a store in Boston when seventeen years of age, and remained there until the breaking out of the war. He accepted the position of first lieutenant in the 22d Mass. Volunteers; left Boston on the 1st of October, 1861, and joined the Army of the Potomac near Washington. He was soon detailed on the staff of Gen. Casey, and afterwards to the staff of Brig. Gen. O. O. Howard, and served in that position until the army moved in 1862. He was with the brigade when the army advanced to Manassas and Rappahannock Station, and was at the siege of Yorktown and the battle of Williamsburg. At the battle of Fair Oaks he was favorably mentioned for meritorious conduct. At one time, when the 81st Penn. regiment was without a field officer, and was falling back, he rallied them under a heavy fire, regained the lost ground, and forced the enemy to retreat with their dead and wounded left on the field. He was there wounded in the foot, and his horse shot under him; but, mounting another, he remained on the field until the battle was over. Declining a furlough, he remained on duty. He acted a conspicuous part in the battle of Charles-city Crossroads, being highly complimented for his gallant acts. At

Malvern Hill he again rendered distinguished service during the day, and at the close of the battle brought a force of artillery, which poured showers of grape and canister into the enemies ranks with great execution, and fired the last shot on that memorable day. He rose in rank rapidly: after the battle of Fair Oaks, acting as adjutant-general, then raised to the office of lieutenant-colonel of the 61st N. Y. Volunteers, and after the battle of Antietam, being made colonel of a regiment. At the close of the terrible struggle at Fredericksburg he was recommended for the position of brigadier-general. In the battles of the Wilderness, he sustained his character for heroic command; and after the battle at Reams' Station, in which his division saved the corps, he was recommended by Generals Grant, Mead and Hancock, for brevet major-general.

All through the bloody conflict of the Potomac Army, Gen. Miles displayed the qualities of a veteran commander. He was four times wounded, and when carried from the field of Chancellorsville, none thought he could live; but after reaching home he rapidly recovered, and hastened back to his command. At the close of the war he was made major-general, — the youngest one in the army.

In the words of the historian of Massachusetts in the Rebellion, whose sketch of Gen. Miles we have followed, we can say that, "though he may not claim the years of many who have been raised to the same rank, Massachusetts has not a man whose record will exceed his in the history of the war of the Rebellion." Enlisting in the regular army, he was assigned to the command of Fortress Monroe, the largest fort in the United States, and where Jefferson Davis was then confined.

Although he achieved such success in the war, he has won greater fame since. After raising a colored regiment in Raleigh, N. C., he was assigned to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. At Gen. Custer's death he was ordered to take that lamented soldier's place, and spent a year arranging Indian affairs in the Indian Territory. Outbreaks occurring in the north, he was called to Fort Keough on the Yellowstone River, and has since then made that his headquarters. Here he has earned the name of being the most successful Indian fighter in the army. His terrible fight with Sitting Bull and his capture of Chief Joseph are fresh in the minds of all.

His wonderful success has been owing to a peculiar skillfulness in the management of his forces, coupled with a daring and fearlessness in danger, which have made him the admiration of friend and foe. Never hesitating to place himself at the head of his men, he seemed to compel those around him to perform whatever he demanded of them; and throughout all his career he has shown himself to be a man of whom any town might well be proud.

Westminster has contributed many men of mark to professional and political life. To the pulpit she has given Rev. John Miles, for many years settled over a parish in Grafton, Rev. Asaph Merriam, and Rev. Charles Kendall, son

of Edward Kendall, Esq., Revs. Joseph Peckham, and Franklin Merriam. Rev. Joseph Wood, son of Abel Wood, Esq., was graduated with honor at Williams College, with the class of 1815; entered the ministry, and labored with success in the South till his death in 1837. And we would not forget to mention in this connection two noble and devoted women, who, having consecrated their lives to the service of Christ, voluntarily exiled themselves from the pleasures and comforts of home, to labor as missionaries under the shadows of heathendom. Myra Wood, daughter of Abel Wood, Esq., married Rev. David O. Allen; and in 1827 they went out together as missionaries to Bombay, where she died in 1831. Mary Sawyer, granddaughter of Rev. Asaph Rice, married Rev. William C. Jackson, a missionary to the East, and spent several years in Asia Minor, at Trebizond and vicinity.

Among teachers who were either natives of this town or were partially educated here, may be mentioned A. Holden Merriam, J. Russell Grant, William S. Heywood, Francis S. Heywood and Porter P. Heywood, William F. and Edward E. Bradbury, Prof. Erastus Everett, a graduate of Dartmouth College, and now a successful teacher in Brooklyn, N. Y., Rev. Prof. Abel Wood, who for some years was connected with Meriden Academy, N. H.; and many females, who have been employed as teachers in this and distant parts of the country.

Westminster has given to the medical profession such men as Dr. John White, who practised medicine in his native town for more than twenty years; Dr. Cyrus Mann, son of Rev. Cyrus Mann; Dr. Joel Wyman, a noted physician of South Carolina; Dr. John L. White, who has a large and successful practice in Illinois; Dr. George Miles, also of Illinois; and Dr. Edwin Buttrick, a graduate of Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y., a prominent member of the medical fraternity in the same State. Dr. Flavel Cutting, who practised medicine here many years, was born of Westminster parents.

A large number of business men in all parts of the country originated in Westminster. The Bigelow Brothers, jewellers, Boston; the Cowee Brothers, Troy, N. Y.; George and Edward Whitney, Worcester; George Wood of California; Hiram Brooks of New York City; John Edgell and J. W. Moore of Gardner, and many others, were once Westminster men.



## WINCHENDON.

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BY REV. ABIJAH P. MARVIN.

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## CHAPTER I.

GRANT AND PROPRIETORSHIPS — LOCATION AND SURFACE — EARLY HARDSHIPS —  
PATRIOTIC SPIRIT — THE REVOLUTION — THE INSURRECTION — SCHOOLS —  
EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT — ACADEMY — WAYS AND BRIDGES — PUBLIC  
TRAVEL AND TAVERN BUSINESS — CARE OF POOR — LOCAL TEMPERANCE  
ACTION — THE LAST OLD SLAVE.

IN the order of incorporation, Winchendon was the thirty-fifth town in the county. The grant of land, from which it took its origin was made by the General Court, June 10, 1735, to Lieut. Abraham Tilton and others. These grantees were descendants or heirs of certain officers and soldiers who were in the famous expedition to Canada in 1690, under command of Sir William Pepperell. The members of that expedition, in after years, sought additional compensation according to what appears to be a settled policy in our country, and the claim was allowed by the government. Many of the able-bodied men of Ipswich were in the service, and the grant was therefore styled Ipswich Canada, to denote the grantees and the design of the grant. Nearly all the soldiers in the expedition were dead by the year 1735, but their children, or other heirs, and the persons to whom claims had been sold, amounted to sixty, who became the proprietors of the tract of land forming the town of Winchendon. The tract was laid out in sixty-three equal shares, after reserving one share for the first minister, one for the use of the ministry, and one for the support of schools. The grant was six miles square. Near the centre of the tract was a reserve of a few acres for the site of a meeting-house, for a burying-yard, and a training-field. The conditions of the grant were that the grantees were to be on the "premises, and have each of them a house of eighteen feet square, and seven feet stud at the least;" in addition, each right or grant was to have six acres of land fitted for mowing, and the people were to build a meeting-house and settle a learned and orthodox minister, all within five years. The conditions were not fulfilled, but efforts to that end were immediately made. In 1736, Col. Thomas Berry, Capt. John Choate and Capt. John Hobson, "went up the coun-

try," located the township, and fixed the boundaries. And this was all. The peace which had prevailed several years after the close of the war with the eastern Indians, had been favorable to the formation of new settlements, and some towns had been founded; but in 1739 the war between England and Spain began, in which France soon became involved. In consequence, the Indian allies of France were roused to action against the feeble colonists of New England, and new settlements were discouraged for several years. In the meantime a few adventurers had been on the ground, and, perhaps, put up a small meeting-house and built a mill; but there was nothing which could properly be called a settlement previous to 1751, the "old French and Indian war" having been brought to a close.

In 1752 the proprietors voted \$100 "old tenor," equal to about fifty-four dollars in silver money, to each one of the first ten men who should by the first of the next November, build a house and settle a family in the township. This vote was passed Jan. 29, 1752, and as the year up to this time began in March, the next November would be in 1753. Settlers immediately occupied the place. One of the first was Col. Thomas Berry, who stayed two or three years for the encouragement of others, and then returned to Ipswich. Lieut. Abraham Tilton was on the ground, and did much in effecting the settlement. The first permanent resident was Richard Day, a large proprietor, useful man, and deacon of the church. Thomas Wilder, of the Lancaster stock, was here till the next war, 1755-63, took him away. Abijah Smith was also a settler, called away by the war, but he returned. Others were Gabriel Pushey or Pouchey, a French refugee from Nova Scotia, William Holt, John Darling, William Moffat. Before 1755, Benjamin Goodridge, Thomas Jewett, Joshua Priest, David Wilder, Benoni Boynton, Nathaniel Burnham, John Moffatt, and John Brown had been added to the number. Some of these left, but others came, so that by 1761, when the war was virtually over, there were ten or a dozen families settled on the grant. From this date settlers came in rapidly. By 1764, twenty-one men had added themselves to the number already here. Peace was declared between England and France in 1763. This stopped the hostilities of the Indians, and made it safe to settle families in the interior. New towns were soon formed. The inhabitants of Ipswich Canada sent in a petition for incorporation as a town, and the next year, June 14, 1764, the act of incorporation was passed by the General Court, and signed by Gov. Bernard. The name of Winchendon is derived either from Viscount Winchendon, Earl of Wharton, or from a place named Upper Winchington in Buckinghamshire, from which place probably the viscount derived his title. It is thought by some that Gov. Bernard gave the name on account of his own connection as an heir to an estate in Upper Winchington.

The names of some of the fathers of the town, as collected from the records of the two first town meetings, here follow: Thomas Mansfield, Abel Wilder, Nathaniel Bixby, Benoni Boynton, Ephraim Boynton, Richard Day, Jonathan



Foster, Samuel Cragg, John Darling, Samuel Titus, Jonathan Stimson, William Oaks, Reuben Wyman, Timothy Darling, Abner Hale, Silas Whitney, Joseph Stimson, Bartholomew Pearson, Daniel Goodridge, Aaron Hodskins, Amos Spring, Stephen Choate, Nathaniel Burnham. Other families came in rapidly in the succeeding years, the descendants of whom are still, or were recently, residents of the town. These bore the name of Hale, Murdock, Brown, Bowker, Barrett, Perley, Porter, Sherwin, Bigelow, Merriam, Joslin, Whitney, Noyes, Bradish, Payson, Houghton, Whitecomb, Smith, Stuart, Carter, Simonds, Hunt, Sawyer, Bridge, Prentiss, Knight and Gale.

The town being thus settled, a few lines may be given to the location, boundaries and scenery. The grant was six miles square, with the north line bordering on New Hampshire. When the present line was run between Massachusetts and New Hampshire, it was found that the northern line of this State took in a strip one mile wide from New Hampshire, but for some unknown reason this tract of six square miles was given to Royalston, and was called "Royalston Leg." Some years later it was assigned to Winchendon. But this addition was more than equalled by subtractions taken from the south-east section when Gardner was incorporated. The boundaries are now as follows: North, by Fitzwilliam and Rindge, N. H.; east, by Ashburnham; south, by Gardner and Templeton; and west, by Royalston. The town contains about twenty-six thousand three hundred acres of surface, including land and water. It is one of the three towns on the northern line of Worcester County. The elevation is high, the surface, on the average, being between ten and eleven hundred feet above tide-water. The dam on Miller's River, near the Orthodox church in Winchendon Village, is one thousand and sixty feet above sea-level, and the highest land in the town, a little north-west of the meeting-house in the centre, is about one thousand four hundred and eight feet high. Probably the neighborhood in the centre is the most elevated village in the county. The surface is very uneven, alternating between high hills and wide valleys. The hills, generally, have a gentle slope, favoring cultivation, and in the westerly part is a long sandy plain. The town is well watered with springs, brooks, and Miller's River, which furnish great water-power. There is one beautiful natural pond named Denison Pond, and the southern quarter of Monomonauk Lake lies in the town. This body of water, lying mainly in Rindge, N. H., as now raised, covers not far from two thousand six hundred acres. This immense store of power, joined to that which comes from the Naukeag ponds in Ashburnham, turns the wheels at Winchendon, and will, in future, increase its business and wealth. The prospect from many high points is very extensive. At the south the dome of Wachusett rises in fair proportions; on the east, are the great and little Watatic; at the north, are the Lyndeboro' Hills; and at the north-west, towers up the Grand Monadnock, while afar off westward are seen the summits of the long Green Mountain chain. In the town itself are many scenes of beauty, where in early times



were swamps and rocks, and a thick covering of woods, which gave a uniform expression to the landscape.

There was the usual variety of woods in the unbroken forest, but the pine covered, probably, as many acres as all other trees together. This fact has given a character to the town to the present time. Besides farming, the attention of the people was early turned to the working up of pine timber, and, from the number of shingles split from the trees, the place was called "Shingle Town" by outsiders. The trees were so straight and rived so easily, that long clapboards were split as true as they can be sawed. The meeting-house erected at the Centre in 1792 was taken down, and rebuilt on a smaller scale in 1852, when the clapboards were used again, being better than new sawed boards. The same was true of the shingles, but these were too much broken in removing to be put on again.

The people who felled the woods and subdued the fields of Winchendon were plain, industrious, honest and moral in their generation. Few, if any, besides the minister, Rev. Daniel Stimpson, and the first permanent physician, Dr. Whiton, had anything more than a common school education. Abel Wilder, and perhaps a few others, had advanced farther in their studies. The people, as a whole, were better material for the planting of a township than the average. They readily complied with the laws in relation to education and religion. Schools were soon started, a meeting-house was built, and an educated minister was honorably supported. Many of the leading families were connected with the church, and nearly all the inhabitants were respectful attendants on public worship. The annals of the town are but slightly stained with the record of social scandals. Though some men and families were more thrifty than others, there was a general equality in fortune and social condition. The hardships of the first generation were very great when the woods needed to be opened by the axe, the swamps had to be drained, and the stones and stumps obstructed the plow and dulled the scythe. Besides, the winters were cold, and the shelter was scanty. Then serpents and wild beasts called for watchfulness, and made life solicitous. But, after all, the people, old and young, enjoyed life. Mrs. Brown, the wife of the second minister, was drawn into town on an ox-sled because of the depth of the snow in the unbroken roads. This was in the time of the Revolution. She said of the people that, when she came to the town, "they were poor as poverty, but merry as grigs." Says Rev. Dr. John Whiton, a native of the town: "Many families found it difficult, at certain seasons of the year, to procure meat, but subsisted on bread and milk, with vegetables, and, of these even, the supply was often scanty. It was difficult to rear sheep on account of the ravages of the wolves, and the cattle were too few to furnish many for slaughter. One of the most respectable women of that day often remarked that sometimes she became (to use her own words) 'so meat hungry' that, could she have procured a piece of meat to boil with her potatoes and turnips, to season them with the flesh relish, she

could have been pretty well satisfied, even though not permitted to taste the meat itself."

In the years just preceding the outbreak of the Revolution, the town was in full sympathy with the people of Boston and the whole Colony in opposition to the measures of the British Government. The leaders of the people were Richard Day, Abel Wilder, and Moses Hale, — all of whom became deacons of the church. Mr. Hale was chosen delegate to a county convention, and to the Provincial Congress in 1774. Mr. Wilder was captain of the military company. There were in the town in 1775, according to Rev. Dr. Whiton, "about ninety families, and near five hundred and fifty people, so that they were able to muster quite a company of militia." When the news came from Lexington and Concord, the people sprang to arms, and as "minute-men," under the lead of Moses Hale, started for the scene of action. Learning while on the way that there were enough at Cambridge, they returned home, and attended to their spring work, and put themselves in preparation for the opening contest. Abel Wilder was commissioned captain, and, by letters dated May 6 and 10, it appears that his company were in Cambridge. The company was composed of men from Winchendon, Templeton and Royalston. Among the soldiers from Winchendon were Benjamin Rice, Amos Hale, David Stoddard, Samuel Bradish, John Day, Nathan Day, Timothy Darling, Samuel Brown, and Elisha Brown. Some twelve or fifteen of the company were personally engaged in the battle of Bunker Hill, the remainder being on guard or otherwise employed. Those from this town engaged in the thick of the fight were Wilder, Bradish, Stoddard, Rice and Hale, and perhaps others. Stoddard was covered with earth thrown up by a cannon-ball; Bradish lost an eye; Capt. Wilder fired his gun "nineteen times, with good chances." By another letter, it appears that he continued firing until his gun was so stopped up "that he could fire it no longer." "The balls flew very thick," but the captain and his men escaped fatal casualties. The following lines cast a gleam of light on the state of things in Boston in the spring and summer of 1775: "The people are coming out of Boston daily. I was at Charlestown Ferry Monday, to see a load come over. They seemed to be glad that they had got out, but looked back sober to think they had left all their substance behind them."

On the Fourth of July, 1776, while the Continental Congress was voting on the immortal Declaration of Independence, the citizens of Winchendon unanimously resolved "that if the honorable Continental Congress should think best for the safety of these Colonies to declare them independent of the kingdom of Great Britain, that we will, with our lives and fortunes, support them in the measure." At the March meeting, 1777, the Declaration was read by order of the Legislature, and was put on record as a "perpetual memorial thereof." The story of the Revolution cannot be crowded into a town history, nor can the deeds and sacrifices of a single town be condensed into such a sketch as this. It is enough to say that the people of Winchendon, male and female,



old and young, adhered to the patriotic cause till the war was triumphantly closed at Yorktown. The hardships of the men in the field, and the labors, privations and anxieties of the wives and children at home, cannot be made real to us by any effort of the imagination. In the progress of the war, nearly every man of the prescribed age and liable to military duty was in the service, more or less. Some were engaged in the Continental Army "for three years, or during the war"; others were out but a few months; and others for only a few days, on some special service. The contributions of money, clothing, food and other stores were a severe drain on the resources of the inhabitants, but they cheerfully bore the burdens which were necessary for the achievement of national life and constitutional freedom.

The exhaustion of the war left many men in debt, and the hard times which followed, during a few years, led to wide-spread discontent. Debtors favored "stay laws" to liberate them from paying their debts when due, and they tried to prevent the sessions of the courts in order to delay civil process, and thus postpone pay-day. Finally, in 1786, the discontented took up arms, and became rebels against the government of the State. It is a matter of record that many of the inhabitants of Winchendon were in sympathy with the insurgents. They took the lead in town meeting on several occasions. At one time the two parties were assembled on opposite sides of the Common. While the friends of the government were engaged in running bullets at the house of Esquire Crosby, the followers of Shays were doing the same at the house of a neighbor. At a meeting on the Common to raise recruits, the drummer went round, but none followed him. The Shaysites were in the majority. At length, William Whitney, head of all the Whitneys in this section, called out to his eldest son, Phineas, "Turn out, Phin." Instantly Phin. stepped from the crowd and followed the drummer. One after another followed his example, and the quota was soon filled. When the insurgents took the field and actual war stared them in the face, few, if any men of Winchendon were in the ranks, but several besides young Phin. Whitney were in the army of the pursuers who overtook the rebels at Petersham, on a cold winter morning, and scattered them like chaff before a gale. The misguided men soon had their grievances redressed, as far as possible, by the government, and settled down into law-abiding citizens. The people of the town, with individual exceptions, had nothing more to do with war, personally, till the outbreak of the Rebellion in 1861.

The first mention of schools in the records is under date of May 5, 1765, the year after the town was organized, when eight dollars were appropriated for a school at the Centre. The next year the sum was twenty dollars. Doubtless there was a school of some kind before this date. In 1767 it was voted, "the extreme parts of the town to have a school by themselves, they providing a place and keeper." A bill was paid by the town this year, to pay for "a horse to bring the school dame up and carry her down again." The cost was



five shillings. It seems that they had to go out of town to obtain the only teacher. Appropriations were slightly increased in the years before the Revolution. Eighty acres of the school land were rented in 1772, and the proceeds, in addition to \$12 raised by tax, were used for schooling. Mrs. Down, the "school dame" was boarded four weeks for twelve shillings. In 1774 the town was divided into six sections, each of which was to have a school, but the terms were short. By the law at that time, the town was a school district, and had the entire control of the schools, as at present, where districts have recently been abolished. It was several years before school-houses were erected in the several sections or "squadrons." The schools were kept in private houses, coopers' shops, and sometimes in barns, during summer. In the arrangement of schools for many years, nearly up to the close of the century, no school-house was set up in Winchendon village, Spring Village or Waterville, those villages not being then in existence. In 1780 it was voted "that a schoolmaster be hired to keep school nine months in a year." Also, "that the nine months' schooling be equally divided into six parts, to be kept in the several places agreed upon by the town." This seems to indicate that school-houses were not yet built. The appropriations increased, and in 1785 the grant for schooling was \$50.

By action taken in 1786 five or six school-houses were soon erected, at a total cost of \$300. Probably some work was given in the several squadrons or quarters. Before 1799 the annual appropriation was raised to \$450. At this time Dr. Israel Whiton was in full practice, and had medical students. In the winter months these young men were engaged in teaching the schools, and this added to their value.

The Rev. Dr. Whiton, whose early training was in the centre school, leaves the testimony that the cause of education in the town, received a great impulse near the opening of this century, from Edward Payson of Rindge, afterwards the celebrated divine. Before this time the town had been districted, and prudential committees were chosen in each district; but the approbation of teachers and the examination of the schools was the duty of the town's committee, of which the minister was *ex officio* a member, and generally chairman. Indeed he *was* the school committee; and the whole superintendence was devolved upon him.

In 1808, the sum raised for schooling was \$500; in 1829, it was \$600; in 1833, it was \$700; and in 1840, it was raised to \$1,000.

A great effort was made in 1816, to raise the standard of education in the town; and a committee of which Daniel Henshaw was chairman, presented to the town an able report on the subject, with valuable suggestions, some of which were adopted. In 1829, the late Hon. Elisha Murdock was placed on the school committee, a position which he occupied till 1863. His influence was greatly beneficial to a whole generation of scholars. There was a steady rise in the amount of money devoted to schooling, as appears from the follow-

ing figures. In 1844, the sum granted was \$1,100; in 1846, \$1,200; in 1848, \$1,500.

An attempt to start a high school in 1851, was not successful, but in the course of two or three years, an appropriation was secured, and the school was opened, under the care of Mr. E. A. Upton as principal. The district system was abolished in 1867. In 1866-67, the new and spacious high-school house was erected. In 1868, the appropriation for schools was \$3,800. There has been an increase since, corresponding to the increase of population. In 1877-78, the whole cost of the schools, including superintendence, printing, &c., was \$4,631.31. The number of the schools is eighteen at present, and the average length is six months and a quarter.

The Winchendon Academy was founded in the year 1843, by the late Ephraim Murdock, Sr., Esq., who erected a handsome building, which was used without charge, by successive teachers. Their names here follow: John G. Giles, Levi O. Stevens, Stephen F. Kellogg, Charles L. Brace, A. H. Merriam, and Rev. Mr. Willmarth. These gentlemen were all graduates of college, and under them many youth of Winchendon and the adjoining towns enjoyed good advantages for mental improvement. Besides the academy building, Mr. Murdock also erected a large boarding-house for the use of the principal, and the accommodation of scholars from abroad. The design of the founder was liberal and praiseworthy, but when the law was passed, requiring towns containing five hundred families, or twenty-five hundred inhabitants to support a high school, it was seen that an academy would not be needed. Mr. Murdock therefore inserted in his will the provision that the academy building should be the property of the town on condition that it should be used for educational purposes. The bequest was gratefully accepted by the town. This was in 1853, when the high school was established. This school was kept in the academy until the elegant high-school house was erected in 1867. Since then the academy has been occupied by schools of a lower grade. Several pupils in the academy and the high school entered different colleges, and were graduated with honor.

The first roads *to* Winchendon were bridle-paths. The first roads *in* the town were very rough and almost impassable for wheels. High hills, wet valleys and frequent streams of water, including Miller's River in both branches, were great impediments to travel and transportation. There were two roads from the towns below to Winchendon in the years between the first settlement, and the organization of the town. One came through Westminster and Gardner, from Leominster and Lancaster; the other came from Groton through Lunenburg and Ashburnham. Probably the latter was in greatest use. At that time the valley of the Connecticut was settled by a considerable population, and there was constant travel between the valley and the seaboard. To bring a portion of the travel through *their* town the proprietors, as early as 1737, voted "that there be a road cut from Earlington as near as may be to the meet-



ing-house lott, at the charge of the proprietors." At a subsequent meeting six pounds were granted to such proprietors as should cut a horse-way from Earlington (Northfield) to the old Centre. Soon after the settlement was well begun, roads were opened to Ashburnham, Templeton, Royalston and Rindge, besides numerous by-ways to accommodate scattered families who needed a passage to meeting, to school, to the mill, and the store.

The first bridge over Miller's River was made very early, about 1753. It was the bridge about a mile north-west of Waterville, on the road to Royalston. Years later a bridge was built a few rods below the dam at the machine-shop of Goodspeed & Wyman. Other bridges were set up as they were needed, or the people could afford to build them. Frequent freshets swept them away, and caused additional expense. The records contain many references to roads and bridges, showing that facilities for travel were obtained at great cost of money, time and labor. The largest appropriation in any one year, in the last century, seems to have been in 1794, when £150 were raised. From the beginning, till 1800, the inhabitants had been making bridle-paths, cart-roads and high-ways for their convenience, without much regard to system; but in 1802 a committee was chosen, "to ascertain the bounds of the roads, and straighten them." The committee were Dea. Moses Hale, a surveyor, Lieut. Paul Raymond, who had a talent for road and bridge making, and Capt. Thomas Graton, who had experience in the business. The chairman went over the roads of the whole town, finding the old bounds when possible, but making the roads straight without undue regard to the traveled way. The Hon. Artemas Hale of Bridgewater, was then a boy, and carried the chain for his father. He is still living, and though very aged, enjoys life and health to a remarkable degree.

During more than a half century, from the latter part of the last century to the opening of the Cheshire Railroad in 1847, Winchendon was on the great thoroughfare of travel from the north-west to Boston, and there was a continual passing of teams both in summer and winter. These came from Eastern Vermont and Western New Hampshire, loaded with the products of the soil and the mill, and returned with merchandise. Large sums of money were laid out on the line of travel, to induce teamsters to pass through the town, and patronize the taverns located at suitable intervals. In this way quite a market was made for the products of the farms. When night came there would, in some seasons, be from fifty to a hundred horses to be put up at a single tavern. The upturned fills of sleighs looked like a young forest divested of foliage. Four, six, eight, and sometimes nine horses were in a single team. The drivers thronged the tavern; the great fires roared in the chimneys; the tables were loaded with substantial food; and the bar-room reeked with the fumes of flip and tobacco. Story, song and laughter filled the evening hours. The taverns which had the most patronage in early times, were those of Mr. Nichols and others, half-way from the village to the Centre; of Mr. McElwain and others at the Centre; and that of Dea. Hale, where Mr. Maynard has long



resided. Later, the hotel of the late Isaac Morse, Esq., in the Village, took the chief patronage of the traveling public. It is now the American House. Within a few years a large hotel was erected, near the railroad station, called the Monadnock House, now changed in name to Tremont House.

Early in 1795, Jotham Johnson of Leominster, informed the public that he would transport "the mail" from Boston to Charlestown, N. H., conveying it in winter in a covered sleigh, carrying passengers at threepence per mile, with fourteen pounds baggage, gratis. The mail was carried on horseback in summer several years. At length Johnson tried the experiment of running a four-horse stage. This was an epoch in travel; the people ran to the windows when the stage went by, and a crowd gathered around the stage-house. But the patronage was too small to justify the continuance of the route.

While more attention is given to the making of good roads and streets than formerly, there is less interest in great through routes since the Cheshire Railway was opened, by reason of which the stages, and all the great teams were immediately withdrawn. The railroad which reached the Village in 1847, gave a new impulse to business which has been felt to the present time. The opening of the Monadnock Railroad seven or eight years since, gave new facilities to business men. The Boston, Barre and Gardner road from Worcester to Winchendon, and the Ware River road, between Palmer and Winchendon, have made the Village a railway centre. Travel and transportation are increased many fold, but the old days of country taverns and good cheer around the great fire place of "mine host" are gone forever.

The town has made provision for the poor ever since there were any who needed help. The first settlers of a town are generally not rich in this world's goods; but those who are unable to take care of themselves prefer to remain in older communities. At an early date the town exercised its legal right to warn out one or more families whose lawful settlement was elsewhere. This might have been to prevent a poor or vicious family from becoming objects of public charity. The first method of providing for the helpless was by way of private kindness and charity. When the town undertook the business, there was no poor-house or farm where paupers could be housed and cared for; but the poor were "bid off," as the phrase was: that is, the town officers took bids to see who would take charge of the poor at the lowest price. It was a stipulation that the children of poor families should have the usual amount of schooling provided for the children of the town. As a general thing the poor were treated kindly; but there was an opportunity for abuse in various ways. The selectmen or overseers of the poor, however, had full control, and could enforce good treatment or remove the wards of the town. The next arrangement was to buy a house and farm, obtain a good overseer and put the poor under his care. It was supposed that the expense would be reduced in this way, while the homeless poor would be provided with a steady home, which they might feel was in some sense their own. In 1817, just

before the temperance movement began to stop the tide of intemperance which was coming in like a flood, the town chose a committee to see what could be done to prevent pauperism by removing the causes, and how best to support those who were dependent. They found the cause in the free use of intoxicating drinks; and they suggested that tavern-keepers and retailers of spirituous liquors should be compelled to observe the law in regard to their business, or have their licenses taken away. Another committee, chosen in 1823 to purchase a poor-farm, made a report in which they referred to the causes of poverty. In this they spoke in regard to the "expediency of immediately posting those who make too free use of intoxicating liquors, and committing to the work-house those who are idle and mis-spending their time." The "posting" referred to was an ancient custom, whereby men not entirely lost to shame were sometimes brought back to decency. If a man was idle,—given to haunting taverns and drinking to excess,—he was "posted," and all persons were forbidden to supply him with intoxicating liquors. It is related of one man, that, when roused by being "posted," to a sense of the degradation to which he had sunk, he said, "it was worse than dying."

The poor-farm and house were purchased in the spring of 1828; and it was voted that the poor-house should be a work-house. Since that time the poor have been supported on the farm; and generally have been under the care of suitable superintendents. The appropriations for their support have been generous; and they have had the privilege of attending meeting on the Sabbath, or of having meetings at their home, conducted by the clergymen of the town. The latter service has been occasional.

There was one case in which the town was obliged to support a man in his old age, whose history had points of interest. Eden London was a slave, in fact, though it is claimed that he was not legally such in Massachusetts. He had belonged to several masters in different towns, but at last was sold to Jonathan Stimson of Winchendon. Passing from him to Thomas Sawyer and from him to Daniel Goodridge, he enlisted in the three years' service in 1776, whereupon his master received the whole of his bounty and part of his wages. Eden was to have his freedom for taking the place of his master in the service. The question in law was, to what town could Eden London look for support in old age and poverty? The court in 1807 decided that, "before the Revolution the settlement of a slave always followed that of his master." This threw Eden upon the town; and he was supported to old age. The tradition is, that he was "a pretty smart man."



## CHAPTER II.

HISTORY OF CHURCHES — RELIGIOUS DEBATES — PASTORAL RECORD — SUBSEQUENT SOCIETIES — CEMETERIES — POPULATION — AGRICULTURE — VILLAGES — LIBRARIES — WOOD-WORKING AND COOPERAGE BUSINESS — MILLS AND SHOPS — INVENTORS — REBELLION RECORD — THE MURDOCK BUILDING — BANKS AND SOCIETIES — COLLEGIATE AND OTHER PROMINENT CITIZENS.

THE history of the churches will be given in the order of their organization. The first Congregational church was formed in 1762, but records from that time to 1800 are lost; but as the town was a parish down to about the year 1825, there are entries in the records of the town that relate to the church. In 1752 a small frame of a meeting-house was raised, but the house was never finished. A small sum of money was raised to procure preaching during the winter. The meetings were held in a "room." In 1761 a meeting-house was built at the south end of the Common. In September it was voted by the town to settle a minister, and Mr. Daniel Stimpson was offered "the minister's right and sixty pounds of money, and sixty pounds salary." At another meeting it was agreed "that instead of giving ye said Daniel Stimpson sixty pounds salary yearly so long as he shall carry on the ministry, to give him sixty pounds salary yearly so long as he shall continue our minister." This secured support in sickness and in old age. Mr. Stimpson was ordained Dec. 15, 1762, and it is supposed that the church was first organized by the council before proceeding to the services of ordination. He was a graduate of Harvard College. After a brief ministry, of less than six years, he died suddenly, of a violent putrid fever, July 20, 1768. The town had a meeting the same day, and voted: "to bear the charges that may arise at the funeral of our deceased pastor;" and "that the Bearers be desired to preach one Sabbath day," each. This was for the benefit of the widow. There are no records to show how many were admitted to the church in his pastorate, but it is known that several of the principal men in the town were pillars in the church. Dea. Richard Day was a man of large property and influence, Dea. Moses Hale became a leading man as years advanced, and Hon. Abel Wilder had few equals in the county in all the elements of Christian manhood.

The next minister was the Rev. Joseph Brown, also a graduate of Harvard College. He was chosen, in the town meeting, by "a unanimous vote to settle in the ministry." His settlement and salary were liberal, for those times, besides the use of two additional ministerial lots. He had also liberty "to be absent two Sabbaths in a year." The ordination took place May 24, 1769. He was happily settled, among a united people. There were, according to Dr. Whiton, about sixty families in the place, with a population not far from three hundred and fifty. Mr. Brown was a man of ability, and appears to have been



acceptable to the church and town for a long series of years. The population increased, and by 1790 the demand for a new and larger house of worship was imperative. The house was built in 1792, and dedicated on the first day of January, 1793. It was a good-sized house, well built, and was the pride of the town for a generation, or until more modern architecture made it seem antiquated. Nearly thirty years of peace and of ordinary prosperity passed away, when dissatisfaction began to be expressed by some members of the church. This grew and spread through the town. The consequence was, an unhappy controversy, in which the minister was sustained by councils and the courts, but his dismissal was the result. The council was held Sept. 3, 1799, but the dismissal was not legally effected till certain points were complied with by the parish.

The influence of this contest was bad, but in a short time there was a restoration of harmony. After hearing various "supplies," Rev. Levi Pillsbury, a graduate of Dartmouth College, class of 1798, was ordained June 23, 1801. His ministry lasted until April 5, 1819, and was filled with usefulness. Though a Democrat in politics, and, in that respect, in opposition to the large majority of the church and town, he was held in high esteem. He was a man of fair abilities and scholarship, of deep sincerity and devoted piety. His influence held the town to the ancient faith, and prepared the way for the great religious interest which pervaded the community soon after his lamented decease.

Rev. Elam Clark, a man gifted with remarkable pulpit talents, was invited to be his successor, but declined, when the Rev. Eber L. Clark was called, and his installation took place Oct. 13, 1820. He was a minister of great energy, and made his mark on the congregation, and in a pastorate of about fifteen years the church was enlarged by many new members, chiefly on confession of their faith in Christ. His letter of resignation was accepted Jan. 2, 1835. On the second day of March, 1836, the Rev. Daniel O. Morton was inducted into the pastorate, as his successor. There were then in the church one hundred and seventy-one members. During his active ministry, of a little over five years, a large number was added by profession. The influence of Mr. Morton and Mr. Clark remains in the town to this day, though they are remembered by few now on the stage of action. Mr. Morton was dismissed June 29, 1841. Rev. Benjamin Rice was acting pastor about three years. This was the era of "supplies," which lasted till Nov. 10, 1846, when Rev. Malachi Bullard was ordained. In the meantime the North Church had been formed in the village. Mr. Bullard died in the spring of 1849, and was succeeded by Rev. John Storrs, in August of the same year. He was suddenly cut off in May, 1852. During his ministry the ancient meeting-house was taken down, and rebuilt on a smaller scale, but large enough for the reduced congregation. The Rev. Benjamin F. Clarke succeeded Oct. 24, 1855. He continued nearly ten years. All these were faithful ministers, and of great service in maintaining the influence of religion amid discouraging

circumstances, owing to the change and removal of the population. Since the removal of Mr. Clarke, the church has been served by the Rev. Milan H. Hitchcock, now a devoted missionary at Constantinople, Rev. David Brigham, and others. At present Rev. Levi Brigham is supplying the pulpit. The church and congregation have been much weakened by the removal of the people to the Village and to other places, but with much self-denial, public worship is still maintained.

The Baptists began to have preaching in the south-west section of the town as early as 1783. The church at New Boston, as that section is styled, was organized about the opening of this century. Elder Samuel Simonds was the first stated minister. He was active and devoted in his calling, and appears to have had the confidence and respect of the whole community. In 1820 the meeting-house in New Boston was built, through the influence of Mr. Simonds. The church had a healthy growth, and the first pastor's name is still mentioned gratefully by aged people who were benefited by his labors. Elder Jones followed him. Rev. Warren Cooper and Rev. Andrew Dunn were the pastors from 1840 to about 1853. The Rev. Mr. Fay followed the second pastorate of Mr. Cooper.

The first sermon ever delivered in Winchendon by a Methodist preacher, was by Lorenzo Dow, in October, 1796. This man's name appears in connection with the origin of several churches in the region. At the above date he was nineteen years of age. The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1800, and the meeting-house was on Tallow Hill, so called, in the north-west section of the town in 1807. The church in the Village was erected in 1833, and enlarged in 1851. There is no space to record the names of the more than sixty successive pastors of this church, but it may be said that, with scarcely an exception, they made a good record, as faithful and godly men. The Sabbath school was formed in 1824, and has been well sustained. The society and church have increased with the growth of the town. In 1875-6, a new and elegant house of worship was erected. The present minister is Rev. Mr. Hanaford. The society owns a respectable and comfortable parsonage.

The North Congregational Church was organized Dec. 7, 1843. A society had already erected a neat and convenient house of worship. Mr. A. P. Marvin, then in the Theological Seminary at New Haven, having received a unanimous invitation from both church and parish, was ordained Jan. 10, 1844. He had supplied the pulpit of the First Church in the Centre, during the preceding six months. The church was composed of sixty-seven members. The society was self-supporting, and immediately began to help others by regular contributions. In 1855 the house was enlarged, and improved by fitting up a vestry and ladies' rooms in the high basement. Mr. Marvin was dismissed Aug. 22, 1866, after a pleasant pastorate of over twenty-two and a half years, having been invited to engage in another service. The number of the members had been much increased, and the congregation had had a steady increase not-



withstanding the formation of two religious societies in the village. After his dismissal the first pastor remained two or three years, and published the history of the town, in accordance with a public vote. This sketch is mainly condensed from that volume.

The Rev. Austin Dodge, a graduate of Andover Theological Seminary, was ordained and installed, Oct. 9, 1866. He was dismissed by a mutual council in about a year. The Rev. Davis Foster, a graduate of Dartmouth College and Andover Seminary, who had been pastor of the church in West Newbury several years, was engaged to supply the pulpit several months, after which he was installed in 1869. He is still in the pastorate, and his ministry has been blessed by many additions to the church. The present number is two hundred and thirty-nine.

The Baptist Church in the Village was formed, April 27, 1848, and Rev. Andrew Dunn, who had preached for several years at New Boston, became the first pastor. A neat and commodious sanctuary was erected, and on the 17th of January, 1849, was dedicated. The enterprise has been successful. Mr. Dunn left for another church in 1853. The Revs. Abraham Baldwin, Lester Williams, W. W. Ashley and George A. Litchfield succeeded, the latter remaining several years — from 1861 to 1865 — when he retired on account of impaired health. At the close of his pastorate the church numbered one hundred and eleven members. The Rev. Leonard Tracy and others supplied the desk till the Rev. J. S. Hamblin was settled in 1872. Under his ministry there has been a gratifying increase of the church and congregation. The last report gives one hundred and ninety-four members of the church.

The opening of the Cheshire Railroad in 1848, brought into the town several Irish families; and the tide then started, flowed steadily till the Catholics were numerous enough to need conveniences for public worship. A plain building put up for another purpose, was fitted for a church, in which their services were held until the basement of a spacious church was fitted for a large congregation a few years since. This basement is roofed over, the intention being to complete the church when funds are provided. Father Moran is the present pastor of the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Unitarians began to hold meetings in the Town Hall in 1851. The Third Congregational Society was organized by them in the following year. Rev. T. H. Dorr was installed Jan. 19, 1852, and continued about a year, when the engagement was terminated by mutual consent. Rev. Mr. Hicks and others supplied for a time, when Rev. Benjamin Huntoon was invited, and remained about two years, 1856-8. He was a venerable gentleman, much respected by the whole community. After an intermission of several years, services were resumed, and Rev. Charles Wheeler was engaged to preach in September, 1865. His pastorate has continued till the present time. An elegant granite church was erected in 1866-7, and was dedicated Nov. 13, 1867. The house which is styled "Church of the Unity," is a fine specimen of architecture.



School-house meetings have been held in all parts of the town, from early times, on the afternoon and evening of the Sabbath. The various ministers preach as their convenience serves, and there has been no clashing in their ministrations. A very large majority of the inhabitants have always been connected with some religious society, and the state of morals, including temperance, has been sound, compared with that of other towns in the county.

There are four cemeteries in the town. Two are ancient; viz., the old burying-yard in the Centre and the yard in New Boston. The Riverside Cemetery was consecrated July 1, 1858. Its location is convenient to the villages, and not more than one and a half miles from four-fifths of the houses in the whole town. There are about twenty-five acres in the enclosure, and the soil is well adapted to the purpose of a cemetery. In addition, the features of the scenery are charming. Rarely is a more attractive union of plain, hillside, meadow and running water found than in this beautiful sleeping place of the departed. The Catholic Cemetery is on the same high plain, with two sides sloping to the border of the large pond, whose gleaming surface, like a mirror, lights up and reflects the Village, while its ceaseless flow gives life to all the business of the place.

The population of the town at successive periods, down to 1875, is given in the history of Worcester County. By the census of 1860 there were two thousand six hundred and twenty-four inhabitants. The number had increased to three thousand seven hundred and sixty-two in 1875. This increase was confined to the villages, and the larger part of it to *the* Village. The valuation at one time was below that of all the other towns in the county, except two or three. In 1865 it had risen to \$1,160,952. In 1868 it was \$1,537,126. By the census of 1875 it was \$2,190,889.

The inhabitants, during the first two generations, were settled quite evenly over the whole township. Farming was the main occupation. There were the necessary mechanics, of course, and some of the farmers spent part of the winter in splitting shingles and other kinds of lumbering. There was no collection of houses that could be styled a village, except by a figure of speech, previous to 1820. The Centre never had at any one time more than eight or ten dwelling-houses. In addition, there was the meeting-house, the school-house, a blacksmith's shop and a store. One of the houses was a tavern. Elderly people remember the time when there were only four dwelling-houses in what is now Winchendon Village. Then Spring Village and Waterville had nothing which suggested the nucleus of a village. At that date there was no school in Waterville or Spring Village, and but one in the Village, where there are now six or seven, including primary, intermediate, grammar and high schools. While the population of the villages, especially that of Winchendon Village, has been increasing, old cellars prove that the farm-houses around the town have been diminishing.

There are now three villages in Winchendon, omitting the old Centre or

Common and Bullardville, in each of which there is a small collection of buildings. These three are all on Miller's River, and derive their existence and business from the power which it supplies. Winchendon Village, or The Village, as it is called by the townspeople, or Winchendon, as it is known by outsiders and the post-office department, is a mile north of the middle of the town, and midway between the east and west borders. It is principally on the north and west side of the river and the ponds which are formed here by substantial dams. Where there were four houses within the memory of living men, and twenty houses in 1843, there are now not far from four hundred, with five churches, many stores and shops, large mills and factories, the stations of three or four railroads clustered together, two spacious hotels and various other places of concourse and business. Notwithstanding the hard times since the panic of 1873, the marks of thrift are everywhere visible, and the signs of reviving industry are increasing.

Two and a half miles up the river, towards the north-east section of the town, is Spring Village, so styled from an iron-spring, well known to the Indians, and used for culinary purposes by many families in the vicinity. This village owes its existence to the great water-power which drives the machinery in Mr. N. D. White's large cotton manufactory. There are, perhaps, thirty houses in the village and immediate vicinity. With few exceptions the dwellings are not large, though comfortable.

Waterville is one mile south-west of the principal Village, and bids fair to increase as its mill-privileges shall be worked to their full power. A station on the Ware River Railroad offers facilities to business. Here were some fifty houses ten years ago, and there has been an increase, though not great, since that time.

Private libraries were scarce, in the last century, in our country towns, and public libraries were not numerous. The Bible held an honorable place in nearly every household. The other books, religious or secular, could generally be placed on a single short shelf. There was, however, a library in the town many years ago, because it is more than half a century since it was sold. This was in the Centre. A library was started in the Village about 1810, but was sold at auction not far from 1825. A third library was started before 1835, in which were some valuable works, including the Family Library. School District Libraries had their day, as did also an Agricultural Library. In 1850 a subscription of \$300 was raised to start a library, and an association was formed, and a collection of books was opened to the use of the public for a small fee. The library grew rapidly until two or three thousand volumes of valuable books had been added. Many of these were damaged or destroyed by fire a few years ago, but by private gifts and town appropriations the loss has been more than made good. It is now a public library, supported by the town. The collection now contains between three and four thousand volumes. In addition, there is a Pastor's Library belonging to the North Congregational



Church, and several Sunday-school Libraries furnish wholesome reading to the children of the several congregations.

The number of farms in the town, by the census of 1875, was one hundred and sixty; the value of farms and buildings was \$334,292; the value of farm property was \$398,060; the number of acres taxed was twenty-five thousand one hundred and thirty-six; and the annual product of farming was \$88,948. At the same time the annual manufacturing product was \$1,085,222. But a little more detail is necessary in regard to the manufacturing and mechanical business of Winchendon.

As stated already, the abundance of pine timber gave a turn to the employment of the people in the early days of the settlement. Splitting shingles and sawing lumber were engaged in as a matter of course; then came coopering and the making of pails, tubs, churns and firkins by hand. The ingenuity of men contrived machines to turn out the pails more readily, and the abundant water of the streams and the main river was made to drive the machines, and thus Winchendon became the mart as well as the workshop of the wood-ware business. Cotton and woolen factories came next. These were followed by machine-shops. More recently new kinds of business have been established, until there is quite a variety in the industrial employments of the people.

The first mills were saw and grist mills, and these in time were set in motion in all sections of the town. The old "Parsons Mill" was on the privilege now belonging to the Goodspeed & Wyman estate. Here was a fulling-mill and clothiers' shop. Phineas and Amasa Whitney had an oil-mill here. Spinning-machines were buzzing in one of the buildings on this site from 1816 to 1825. Next, Amasa Whitney had a woolen factory. Various changes followed, under the management of George Coffin and William Vose. The Seamless Garment Company occupied the building a few years; there are now on the ground five or six buildings, some of which are large. Machinery is made in one; wood-ware in another; faucets in a third; and saddle-trees in a fourth.

Down stream some fifty rods is the large tannery formerly owned by the late Isaac Morse, Esq. It has been in the possession of Nelson & Rice and the late Mr. George Brown, but is now owned by Hon. Thomas Rice of Shrewsbury. At the same place, the late Ephraim Murdock, Esq., had a shop, and his son, Col. William Murdock, now occupies one much larger as a machine-shop. M. T. Nash formerly made mop-handles and castings at this privilege. This spot has great capabilities.

At Spring Village there was a saw-mill; then a woolen factory was set up by Sylvanus Holbrook in 1826. The cotton business took its place in 1831. Deacon Joseph White, and his son, Nelson D., became interested in the establishment in 1843. The first factory, built of wood, was burned in 1854. The next year the present fine building was erected. It is of brick, large and convenient, in the modern style of factory architecture, with neat surroundings. Mr. Nelson D. White has had the management since 1845, and been the princi-



pal, and latterly the sole owner. His sons are engaged in carrying on the business. The annual product in good times is about \$300,000 in value. The cotton-mill of Hon. Baxter D. Whitney, in the Village, is worked by Mr. White also, and is capable of producing cotton fabrics of the value of \$75,000 annually.

The pioneer in the making of wood-ware by machinery, seems to have been the late Hon. Elisha Murdock, who began in Waterville, about fifty years ago. The invention of the cylinder-saw made it possible to cut and fit staves of any desirable curve with great rapidity. Mr. Murdock built up a large business. His elder brother, Capt. Ephraim Murdock, Jr., then began the career in the wood-ware business, in which he became the acknowledged chief in the country. In 1849 Maj. Sidney Fairbanks was taken into partnership in this line of manufacture, and has continued in the connection to the present time. Several other establishments have been, and now are engaged in this branch of business. The successors of Elisha Murdock have been his son-in-law, William W. Whitney, and James Whitman. The latter has recently retired. Mr. Orlando Mason has done an extensive business at his mill below Waterville. Other enterprising men have helped to make Winchendon the metropolis of the wood-ware business, as William Woodcock, William Beaman, Irving E. Weston, the Messrs. Aldrich, the Sibleys, and others still.

There are three machine-shops in the Village. The first in origin, and the most extensive, was started by Col. William Murdock, in 1839. It was a wonder then that he had a machine by which he could shave iron. He has turned out a great variety of work. In 1846 the Hon. Baxter D. Whitney began his works by building a dam where the railroads now cross the river. In 1852 a flood swept away everything. Since then all the buildings, including machine-shop, foundry, wooden-ware shop, cotton-mill, blacksmith and carriage-makers' shops, have been erected. The power is one of the best in the county. Mr. Whitney makes machinery for working wood, and in favorable seasons turns out work valued at \$75,000 per annum. The third machine-shop has been owned, since 1860, by Goodspeed & Wyman. The recent death of the latter dissolved the firm. This establishment has sent out a great variety of work.

The making of faucets may not strike the reader as a large business, yet by industry and shrewd management, it has helped make the handsome property of Mr. Charles A. Loud. The above is a mere glance at the results of mechanical ingenuity in the shops and factories of Winchendon in the past and present. Space would fail to tell of the measures of Dea. Reuben Hyde; the sleds and carts for children of Ezra Hyde; the boxes and beds of the Messrs. Chase; the moulding-boards of the elder Mr. Loud; and the numerous articles made by Messrs. Kendall, Robbins, Harris, Parks, Nash, and Calvin Whitman.

At present there are about thirty establishments in the town, of different magnitude, working in wood, iron, cotton, and turning out a great variety of

articles of necessity and convenience. Besides those mentioned above, are the works of Ozro & John Hancock, W. P. Clark & Co., Edward Loud, G. S. Loud, Raymond & Rice, Bay State or S. R. Nye Horse Rake Company, George B. Stone (wool-cleanser), S. & N. W. Wyman, Daniel Piper, Michael B. White, Alvin Streeter, Q. S. Backus, George H. Wood & Co., George B. Raymond and others. In a word, the northern part of the town is a bee-hive in industry.

Among the ingenious inventors of Winchendon may be numbered the following:—Richard Stuart was a contriver in mechanics, and among other things conceived the idea of bending a saw around the end of a cylinder, and thus sawing circular stuff. The same claim is made for the late Edward Loud. Mr. Loud invented a revolving cylinder for fluting wooden washboards.

Dea. Reuben Hyde is believed by many to have been the real inventor of the cylinder or barrel saw, of which he had the patent till it was sold for the trifling sum of fifty dollars. There were "millions in it."

Jacob Simonds invented a combination of saws of different sizes for cutting out the fluting of washboards. Lewis Robbins invented the machine for making clothes-pins with rapidity. Edwin Parks invented an auger faucet. Col. William Murdock invented a bobbin as well as an improvement in jack-spools, both much in use. The Parks Brothers made an improved jack-spool. Stephen Ketchum invented an ingenious method of screwing the ends of pipe together, thus dispensing with soldering and cutting apart. Improvements in the sewing-machine, and a new chopping machine, are his devices. Quimby S. Backus invented several things: one is a vise; another a machine to print labels; and another for cutting slate-pencils. He makes bit-braces. Lyman Jennings invented a machine for slicing off, instead of sawing, veneers. John G. Folsom has made improvements in sewing-machines. Mason & Converse make very pretty children's tea-sets of wood, by machinery invented by the latter.

Baxter D. Whitney's first invention was a contrivance for stretching wrinkles out of cloth while in the fulling-mill. Then came a machine for smoothing hard wood after passing through the ordinary planer. This has been patented in several European countries, and is in general use. A gauge-lathe, a machine for grinding cylinder saws, and improvements in cylinder planers, are among his inventions. The band-saw, which is the poetry of invention, was the conception of a Frenchman, but it has been improved and made practical by Mr. Whitney. Improvements in machinery which cannot claim to be new principles, but which greatly facilitate work, have been made in large number by the ingenious mechanics of Winchendon.

In the war of the Rebellion this town did its whole duty. From the day when the news of the outbreak at Fort Sumter was received, till the rebel armies surrendered, the citizens never lost heart or hope. The enthusiasm was extraordinary, and the fires of patriotism glowed brightly to the end of the



contest. Public meetings were held and addressed by leading citizens; every pulpit spoke and prayed for union and freedom. The women as well as the men made sacrifices for the cause of nationality and human rights. Young men readily enlisted. Money was raised liberally for equipments, for bounties and for hospital supplies, and for State aid to families. The town furnished, says Gen. Schouler, "about two hundred and ninety-four men for the war, which was sixteen above all demands. Six were commissioned officers. The amount of money raised by the town, and by subscription as bounties, State aid, and for war purposes generally, was \$55,949.12. The amount raised by private bounties, by ladies and by churches, was \$3,276.65; making a total of \$59,225.77." Seventeen young patriots were killed or mortally wounded. Thirty-seven others died of disease, or the hardships of war, either at home, in hospital, or as prisoners. Though held in "honor and dear esteem," no monument, chapel or memorial hall has yet been erected in memory of their deeds. But one of the most recent, and the most costly and elegant building in Winchendon, gives some idea of what might be done by public or private munificence.

The "I. M. Murdock Block" was erected in the years 1875-6; by Capt. Ephraim Murdock, Jr., in affectionate memorial of his only child, Mr. Isaac Morse Murdock, who died in early but mature manhood, a few years since. It will interest many readers to have a brief description of the building: "Building 75½ feet deep, 54 feet front. The front width extending back 30 feet; the remainder 51½ feet deep; width, 41½ feet. Front elevation, 35 feet. Street or ground floor is occupied by an entrance and stairs to an upper room, and two stores. The floor above the stores is occupied for a hall and two parlors, two dressing-rooms over the parlors, with gallery overlooking the hall. Parlors and dressing-rooms fronting on the street. The basement next under the stores is occupied for lunch-rooms, and cupboards connected with the lunch-rooms. It is also used in connection with the stores, and for storing coal, and for gas-pump, &c. Two sub-cellars under the lunch-room, used in connection with the stores. Closets and water in each story. The whole lighted with gas. "The building is constructed of the best materials: granite-trimmings, pressed brick, plate-glass, slated roof, copper gutters. Inside finish of Canada ash, filled and rubbed down. Furniture,—folding settees and chairs sufficient for six hundred people. Stairs, parlors, dressing-rooms and halls leading to the same, carpeted." In erecting this structure, which is a memorial of parental affection, the severe taste of the owner has excluded all ornamental devices, but the massive and elegant exterior, and the convenient, costly and perfectly finished interior, make the whole combination a thing of beauty. The hall, parlors, rooms, and all the conveniences are freely given for the social, literary, benevolent or religious uses of the congregation of the "Church of the Unity."

The Winchendon National Bank has a capital of \$200,000, and a surplus of



\$72,000. The president is Henry Fairbank; the cashier Charles L. Beals. The Winchendon Savings Bank holds deposits to the amount of \$460,000. Orlando Mason is the president and Charles L. Beals the cashier. The bank building is an ornament to the village.

Lodges of Masons, Odd Fellows, Sons of Temperance and Good Templars have existed in the town. There are one or more Masonic Lodges at present.

The Winchendon "Courier" and the Winchendon "Journal" well supply the demand for local news.

The list of clergymen, lawyers, doctors, graduates and successful business men who were natives or residents of Winchendon would fill more space than can be allotted. The names of several of the ministers have been given already. They have been of spotless reputation, and their influence has been pure and elevating. The first lawyer was Benjamin Bridge. The second was Samuel Thatcher, who went to Maine, became eminent, and had a seat in Congress. Daniel Henshaw was a man of ability, but more distinguished as an editor than as a lawyer. Horatio G. Newcomb removed to Greenfield. He was a member of both branches of the Legislature. The present lawyers are Frank Spalter, L. W. Pierce and Hon. Giles H. Whitney. The latter has been in the State Senate, and has been moderator of town meetings many years.

Among the numerous physicians, mention should be made of Dr. Israel Whiton, eminent in his day, and father of Rev. Dr. Whiton, and other well-known descendants. The late Alvah Godding, M. D., lived in the town from 1826 till a few years since. His practice was extensive, and his influence was strong in favor of every good cause. As a pioneer in the temperance reform and the anti-slavery cause, he is worthy of special honor. His partner during several years, Dr. Ira Russell, is still in vigorous activity as a practising physician. He acquired distinction as a surgeon in the war of the Rebellion. With his son, Dr. Frederick W. Russell, he has the care of many patients in a private hospital.

Among the graduates of college are the Hon. William B. Washburn, Emerson Whitney, Esq., William W. Godding, M. D., Jacob B. Harris, Esq., John Nelson Murdock, Esq., Isaac M. Murdock, Charles Edward Bigelow, F. W. Russell, M. D., Charles Wheeler and William De Witt Hyde. Many young ladies are graduates of the higher female seminaries.

It will not be considered invidious to refer to one or two men who have been conspicuous in the pursuits of business. One was Phineas Whitney, who died many years since, but is remembered as one of the most capable men ever raised in the town. The other is Ephraim Murdock, Jr., who in a vigorous old age exhibits the activity of earlier years.

The author is indebted to Bethuel Ellis, Esq., for information in regard to business establishments.

# WORCESTER.

BY CHARLES A. CHASE, A. M., SUPERVISED BY SAMUEL F. HAVEN, LL. D.

## CHAPTER I.

FIRST SETTLEMENT AT QUINSIGAMOND — THE ANCIENT HIGHWAY — EARLY GRANTS TO PROPRIETORS — HISTORY OF THE PLACE — COMMISSIONERS' ALLOTMENTS — INDIAN DEED — FORTIFICATIONS — INDIAN DANGERS — PROGRESS — NAME OF TOWN — SERJENT'S MURDER — ADDITIONAL SETTLERS — THE SCOTCH-IRISH.

ONLY a little more than two hundred years ago the infrequent wayfarer who journeyed westward from Boston toward Springfield, after leaving the settlement at Marlborough and plodding some ten miles further, crossed Lake Quinsigamond near its northern end, and, surmounting a series of hills on its western shore, turned southward through what is now Lincoln Street, nearly to Lincoln Square. At a point near Henchman Street he turned westward to cross the little stream flowing at his right, and following it for a short distance turned again to the west, and passing over the little rise on the "Jo Bill Road," found himself in another valley, where, taking a southerly course, now perhaps impossible to trace, he came to what is now called New Worcester; there, following for a while the water-courses towards their sources, our traveller soon left behind him the region where he had seen no traces of a white person, but where now stands WORCESTER, with its population of more than fifty thousand souls. \*

\* The "History of Worcester from its earliest settlement to September, 1833," a volume of 384 pages, was written by William Lincoln, Esq., and published by Moses D. Phillips & Co., book-sellers in the town, with the imprint 1837. Mr. Lincoln's work was compiled with zeal, fidelity and discretion, and treated the subject in an exhaustive manner, which left but little for later gleaners in the same field. The history was re-printed in 1862, by Charles Hersey, who added many facts and statistics for the period which had intervened since 1833. The "Reminiscences of Worcester from the Earliest Period, Historical and Genealogical, with notices of early settlers and prominent citizens, and descriptions of old landmarks and ancient dwellings, accompanied by a map and numerous illustrations, by Caleb A. Wall," appeared in 1877, and is a valuable addition to the bibliography of the place. Mr. Albert A. Lovell compiled an excellent history of "Worcester in the Revolution," which was published in 1876. In the same year an account of the municipal celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, published by the city, was enriched with historical and chronological notes, compiled by Mr. Nathaniel Paine. The

In the early distribution, by the Commonwealth, of its vast unoccupied tracts in the interior, 3,200 acres fell to Increase Nowell, of Charlestown, in 1657, 1,000 acres to the church in Malden in 1662, and 250 acres to Ensign Thomas Noyes, of Sudbury, in 1664. These were all subsequently located in the neighborhood of the lake from which the settlement here derived its original name of Quon-igamoag, or Quinsigamond. In 1665, on petition of the purchasers of Nowell's right, the General Court appointed a commission to view the region, and determine "if there be a meet place for a plantation." The death of one of the commission (Lieut. Noyes), and disturbances in the body politic, prevented them from attending to their duty; but a new commission, appointed two years later, held a view in 1668, and made their return, which is of sufficient interest to reproduce here, in full. The reader of to-day will be amused at seeing this city described as a tract "about twelve miles westward from Marlborough" (or Maurlborrow), and as one capable of supplying thirty or perhaps sixty families:—

"We have, according to the Court's order, bearing date 15th May, 1667, viewed the place therein mentioned, and find it to be about twelve miles westward from Marlborough, near the road to Springfield, and that it contains a tract of very good chesnut tree land; a large quantity: but the meadow we find not so much; because a very considerable quantity of meadow and upland, about five thousand acres, is laid out unto particular persons, and confirmed by this Court, as we are informed, which falls within this tract of land; viz; to Ensign Noyes deceased and his brethren, three thousand two hundred acres: unto the church of Malden, one thousand acres: unto others, five hundred acres, bought of Ensign Noyes; but, all this notwithstanding, we conceive, there may be enough meadow for a small plantation, or town, of about thirty families: and if those farms be annexed to it, it may supply about sixty families. Therefore, we conceive it expedient, that the honored court will be pleased to reserve it for a town, being conveniently situated, and well watered with ponds and brooks, and lying near midway between Boston and Springfield, about one day's journey from either: and, for the settling thereof we do offer unto the Court that which follows; viz:

"That there be a meet proportion of land granted and laid out for a town, in the best form the place will bear, about the contents of eight miles square:

"That a prudent and able committee be appointed and empowered to lay it out: to admit inhabitants, and order the affairs of the place, in forming the town, granting lots, and directing and ordering all matters of a prudential nature, until the place be settled with a sufficient number of inhabitants and persons of discretion, able to order the affairs thereof, in the judgment of the Court:

"That due care be taken by the said Committee, that a good Minister of God's Word histories of some of the churches, seminaries and public institutions were written at about the same time. To all of these, to the annual reports of the different departments of the city government, to the files of local newspapers, the public records, and to many fragmentary pamphlets and addresses, preserved in the Antiquarian Hall, the present writer has referred, and from them has drawn freely for materials for his work. The limits assigned to him have compelled him to be brief, and he has aimed to be impartial. An early vote of the proprietors assigned to Joshua Rice "thirty acres on both sides of the country road one-half mile west of Capt. Wing's mil. place,"—which establishes the fact that the Jo Bill road was a part of the country road.



be placed there, as soon as may be: that such people as may be there planted may not live like lambs in a *large* place:

"That there be two or three hundred acres of land, with a proportion of meadow, in some convenient place, at the discretion of the Committee, reserved, and laid out for the Commonwealth; and the Committee to have power and liberty to settle inhabitants thereupon, for lives or times, upon a small rent, to be paid after the first seven years.

"DANIEL GOOKIN.

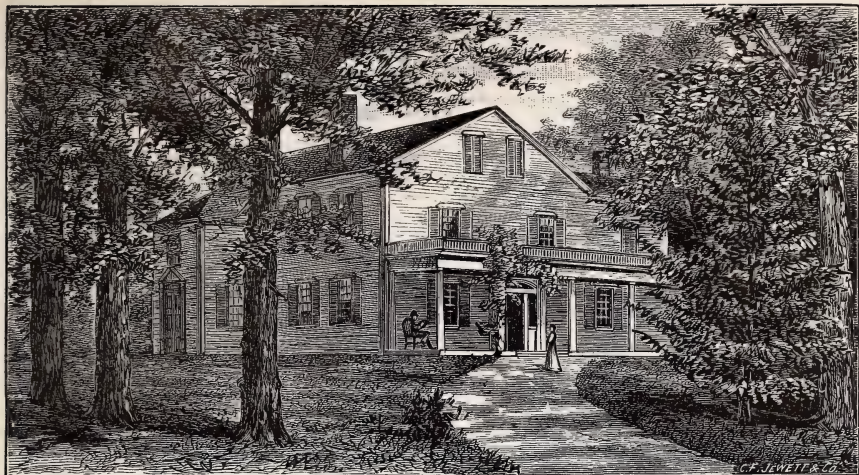
EDWARD JOHNSON.

ANDREW BELCHAR."

The committee, in continuing their labors, — for their report was accepted by the General Court, — were embarrassed by the previous grants which had been made of the territory. The farm taken up by the Malden church embraced a hundred acres out of only three hundred of "meadow" or grass-land in the whole territory. "One Ephraim Curtis, a young man living in Sudbury," had succeeded to the rights of Ensign Noyes, and two or three hundred acres had been reserved for the Commonwealth. The first tract, granted on condition that it be improved within three years, had remained six years without improvement; Curtis had naturally taken a good slice of the grass-land, and the Commonwealth would be entitled to another portion. The Committee, therefore, begged the General Court to remove these serious obstructions to the settlement of the place, that a new division of the lands might be made, which should make it more desirable for settlers to take up their residence here. The claim of the Commonwealth was abandoned, but it was not until 1674 that, on the renewed petition of the committee, Mr. Curtis' farm was reduced to fifty acres, while, as a recompense, he was allowed to take up 250 acres in some quarter outside the town. In the previous year thirty house-lots had been laid out for as many settlers, some of whom began to build and to cultivate in different quarters of the town.

It only now remained to extinguish the rights of the Indians, the original lords of the soil, and for the consideration of "twelve pounds lawful money, or the full value thereof," Woonaskochu, sagamore of Tataesit (Tatnuck), and Hoorrawannonit, sagamore of Pakachoag, gave a deed of the eight miles square which had been set off by the State, and which comprised part of Holden (incorporated as a separate town in 1740) and the north part of Auburn (set off in 1778). The deed ran to

"Daniel Gookin, Thomas Prentice, Daniel Hinchman, Richard Beers, and ye rest of the people admitted, or to be admitted, by ye sd committee to be inhabitants of yt new plantation, and to their heirs, executors, admrs, and assigns for ever, in fee simple, all and every pt of our civill or naturall right, in all and singular the broken up land and woodlands, woods, trees, rivers, brooks, ponds, swamps, meadows, mincralls, or any other thing, or things whatsoever, lying and being within that tract of land, conteyning eight miles square or the contents thereof, to be layd out by ye sd persons or their order in time convenient. To have and to hold the premises, and every pt thereof, unto



THE DR. WILLIAM PAINE HOUSE, LINCOLN STREET, WORCESTER, MASS. (Commenced previous to the War of the Revolution, and completed about 1777-8.)



HOUSE BUILT BY GARDNER CHANDLER, ON MAIN STREET, WORCESTER, MASS., ABOUT 1763. (Last occupied by Hon. Ira M. Barton )





them the sd Daniel Gookin, Thomas Prentice, Daniel Hinchman, and Richard Beers, and all ye rest of ye sd Inhabitants admitted or to be admitted planters there, and unto ym and yr heirs forever, freely and absolutely, without any lett, molestation, or disturbance, of us, or any of our kindred or people, or any claiming by, from, or under us, for evermore, as our heysr or assigns; and wee do promise, upon the finishing ye payment to make full and ample deeds and writings for the same, according to law."

One of the first garrison-houses — "the old Indian fort" — was built between Grove and Lincoln streets, near the fording-place, — a wooden castle, two stories in height, built of timbers, with loop-holes for musketry and ports for cannon. Another was on the west side of Main Street, near Chatham, another near the head of Exchange Street, and another north of Adams Square. These were erected at different times in the early history of the town, and some of the first settlers built their houses with a view to withstand any hostile attack of the red men.

The precautions taken by the first settlers to secure the good-will of the Indians were favorable for peace; but the war begun with King Philip led that chieftain to secure the co-operation of the Nipmuck tribes to which the Worcester Indians belonged, and most of them were too weak to refuse to join his standard. They accompanied him in his expedition against Brookfield in July, 1675, and in December of the same year they, or their more warlike allies, burned the buildings of the white settlers here, who had fled early in the year to places of greater safety. The war ended with the death of Philip in the summer of 1676, and found Quinsigamond occupied only by a few Indian women, children and men too old to bear arms; for the warriors had either fallen in battle or fled to Canada or the West to escape the punishment which they felt would be administered to them by an outraged Province.

The commission to whom the care of establishing a settlement here had been assigned, continued faithful to their charge. Dec. 6, 1677, they bought of the heirs of sagamore Pannasunet, who probably lived on or near Wigwam Hill, and who had not joined in the former deed, all his right in the territory. In March, 1678, at a public meeting in Cambridge, Gookin, Hinchman and Prentice of the committee, with sixteen others, signed a paper expressing their intent and purpose to endeavor, either in their persons *or by their relations or by their purses*, to re-settle the plantation in the summer of 1680. But none of these three means effected the desired end, and in October, 1682, the committee were spurred to renewed activity by the threat of the General Court that unless speedy measures were taken to form a plantation, their grant would be declared forfeited. A general survey was made in 1683, and in the following spring a plan was adopted for a central settlement, which was soon after made on the site of what was long the central part of the village of Worcester, lying, generally speaking, between Lincoln Square and the common. The name of Worcester (from the Saxon *Wegera-ceaster*, or war-castle) was given to the place by the General Court in September, 1684, and the settlement followed

soon after. Daniel Gookin, Daniel Henchman and Capt. John Wing, who had been added to the committee, were among the settlers at this time, who included, in all, some twenty-five adult men. It is not probable that the settlement increased much in size, and, at the beginning of the 18th century, all the white inhabitants, save one Digory Serjent and his family, fled from the little town in fear of the re-awakened hostility of the Indian tribes. Serjent, who had settled on Sagatabscot Hill, in the south-east part of the town (on or near Winthrop Street), remained at his home unmolested through the summer of 1702 or 1703, but, at the approach of winter, an armed force of twelve men was sent by the committee to compel him to remove to a place of safety. The thrilling story is graphically told by Lincoln. In brief, the rescuing band arrived at Serjent's house only to find the owner stretched in blood upon the floor, and no living being near. His eldest daughter Martha, returning afterward from Canada, where she had been carried with her brothers and sisters, told the story of the attack, the defence in which her father lost his life, the hurried flight of the savages fearing pursuit, the assassination, by a chief, of her fainting and faltering mother as they climbed the Tatnuck Hills, and the tedious journey to the wilds of Canada, where she was detained for seven years in captivity. She married Daniel Shattuck, and received her father's estate by will. There she probably lived for a time in "D. Shattuck's hovel, made of the stuff of said deceased's old house," but afterwards moved to Westborough, where five children were born to them.

In 1709 Joseph Sawyer and fifteen others petitioned the General Court for aid in the re-settlement of the town. The council appointed a committee, but the lower branch, believing the time unfavorable, refused to concur. A second petition, in 1713, met with a favorable answer, and on the 14th of June, 1714, a detailed report was presented by this committee of their proceedings in adjusting the claims of the former settlers and promoting the prosperity of the future plantation. After giving notice to all interested and making a journey to Worcester, they had allowed thirty-one rights of ancient inhabitants, and admitted twenty-eight persons more to take lands on condition of paying twelvence per acre for their planting or house lots only, being the amount collected of the original planters, and of building and dwelling on each right whether acquired by purchase, grant or representation. It was recommended that the provision made for support of the ministry and schools be accepted instead of the reservation to the Commonwealth in 1668.

A lot of forty acres was assigned to each of the committee as compensation for their time and their past and future labor. Jonas Rice, a planter of the second settlement, returned in the autumn of 1713, and built upon Sagatabscot Hill, occupying part of the Serjent Farm. To him was born, Nov. 7, 1714, Adonijah, the first male native of the town. Some of their descendants are still inhabitants of the city. Gershom Rice, brother of Jonas, the second settler, came from Marlborough in the spring of 1715, and settled on Pakachon



Hill, in the present limits of Auburn, and in 1718 the population had increased to about two hundred souls. The Indians had ceased to trouble the inhabitants, but wild animals, poisonous reptiles, and feathered marauders annoyed the husbandman, and for many years war was waged against wolves, bears, wild-cats, rattlesnakes, blackbirds and jays, for whose destruction bounties were offered, varying from threepence for birds to four and afterwards eight pounds for the head of a wolf.

The first arrival of foreign settlers occurred about the year 1718, when a party of "Scotch-Irish" Presbyterians came to the new town. Most of these were descendants of a colony which had removed from Argyleshire to Londonderry, in the north of Ireland, in the reign of James I. Failing to enjoy there the full liberty of worship which they desired, they came to Massachusetts, accompanied by some native Irish families with whom they were connected by social or religious ties. They held their first religious services sometimes in the open air, and sometimes in the old fort north of Lincoln Square, and, after a little while, began the erection of a place of worship on the west side of Lincoln Street, just north of the Paine estate. But the religion, and perhaps the mode of life of the foreign colony were distasteful to some of the older inhabitants, and the partly-finished meeting-house was secretly destroyed by violence under the cover of night. Some of the emigrants, discouraged by such treatment and by other marks of prejudice, left the town, and joined larger bodies of their countrymen who had established settlements at Pelham, in the county of Hampshire, and at Londonderry, N. H. That succulent esculent, the potato, was brought to Worcester by these people, and at first received a welcome no heartier than that extended to its introducers. A goodly number of these people remained, however, and in time assimilated with the other inhabitants. The list includes the ancestors, in the sixth generation, of Gen. George B. McClellan, and of the late Chief Justice George T. Bigelow, and of the McFarlands, Caldwells, Barbers, Hamiltons, Youngs, Crawfords and other families of the present day.

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## CHAPTER II.

INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN — A COUNTY FORMED — FIRST PUBLIC BUILDINGS — TOWN HALL — THE COMMON — THE OLD BURYING-GROUND — ANCIENT TRAINING FIELD — FIRST DIRECTORY.

In the month of June, 1722, the General Court passed a resolve granting a charter to the town and ordering a town meeting for organization on the last Wednesday of September. The first selectmen were, Deacon Nathaniel Moore, Nathaniel Jones, Benjamin Flagg, Jonas Rice and John Gray. Jonas Rice was town clerk, Daniel Heywood, treasurer; Nathaniel Jones, Jonas

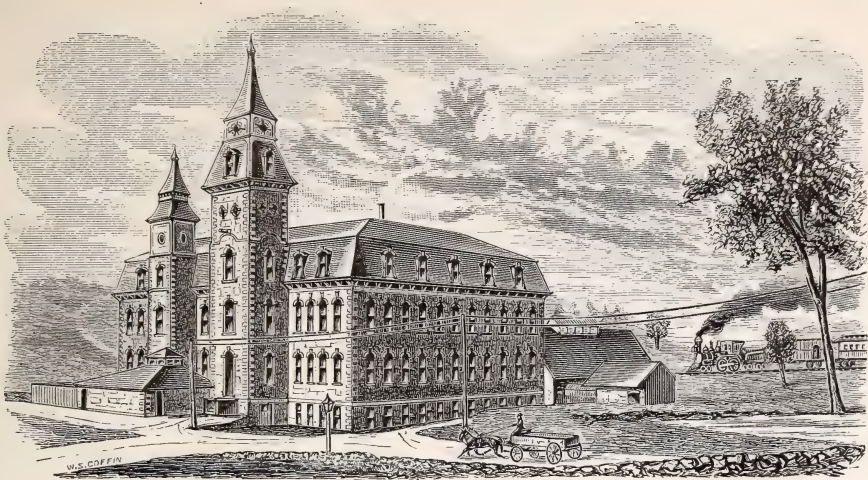


Rice and Henry Lee, assessors ; Jonathan Moore and John Hubbard, constables ; Daniel Bigelow and Thomas Haggitt, highway surveyors ; James Holding and Jacob Holmes, tything-men ; William Gray and Richard Ward, fence viewers ; Nathaniel Moore, clerk of the market ; John Gray, sealer of leather ; and Robert Peeble and Aaron Adams, hog-receves.

On the establishment of the county of Worcester, which took effect July 10, 1731, Worcester was made the shire town, a good fortune which it owed to its central position rather than to its size ; for Sutton, Lancaster, Mendon and Brookfield were larger, and from the size of the new county it was urged by many that there should be two shires, — Lancaster and Worcester. But this proposition was resisted, especially by the worthy Joseph Wilder of Lancaster, who urged that the administration of justice in his town would corrupt the morals of the people, — a theory which did not deter his townsmen at a later period from renewing the attempt ; nor did it prevent the good people of Fitchburg, in after years, from asking and obtaining the privilege of having some of the terms of court held there, or even from clamoring for a division of the county ; which last proposition — ungranted as yet — let us hope a cooler reflection and a just pride in the history and character of the historic old county may lead its people ever to resist.

The history of Worcester for the remainder of the eighteenth century, embracing the period of the French and Indian wars and the struggle of the Revolution, is chiefly of a military nature, so far as it presents any features of importance, and will be treated at a later stage in this narrative. The advantage accruing to the town from the holding of the courts and the location of the county offices, as well as from its central position in the county and the Commonwealth — it being also upon the great highway of travel — brought it a steady increase of prosperity and population. Young men, having fitted themselves for the legal or medical professions, and others who desired to engage in mercantile pursuits or in manufactures, came to Worcester as to a wider and more promising field of labor than was offered at their homes. Mingling here with our native population, they helped to form a society which, leavened by the high character and learning of the clergy, acquired a tone like that for which some of the other larger towns of Massachusetts have been noted, and which, both there and here, has been retained to the present day.

For the first century of its history, there was no building owned by the town and set apart exclusively for town meetings and for public offices. As the first (or Old South) church was the property of the town in its parochial capacity, the meetings for the transaction of business were naturally held there at first, and it continued to be the scene of the town meetings until a building was erected expressly for town uses. It was not until the annual "March meeting" in 1824 that steps were taken which resulted in the building of the main part of what is now the City Hall. A committee chosen at this time reported at an adjourned meeting in May, and their plan, somewhat modi-



FOREHAND & WADSWORTH FIRE-ARM MANUFACTORY, WORCESTER, MASS.



LORING COES & COMPANY'S WRENCH MANUFACTORY, WORCESTER, MASS.





fied, was adopted at another meeting two weeks later. It provided for a brick building, not to exceed 64 feet in length by 54 feet wide, and not to cost over \$7,000. A wooden building standing upon the site, owned by Samuel Flagg and used as a store, was purchased and removed. The corner-stone of the hall was laid August 2 of the same year, when the large concourse of citizens who had assembled were addressed by Samuel M. Burnside, Esq. At the dedication, May 2 of the following year, an address, reviewing more fully the history of the town, was delivered by Hon. John Davis. The basement was occupied by a fire-engine and a store. The first floor contained a hall for public meetings and rooms for the town offices. The upper story was divided into two smaller halls, one of which was leased to the Freemasons, and the other was for general use. In 1841 an extension of fifty feet was made upon the east side, and the whole upper story was thrown into one large hall for town-meetings, lectures and public gatherings. Here, for several years, were held the State conventions of the political parties; and it was the scene of many a spirited caucus, notably during the summer of 1848, when our late honored townsman, Hon Charles Allen, returned from the convention at Philadelphia which had nominated Zachary Taylor for President,—a nomination which Judge Allen and Henry Wilson, also a delegate, had repudiated upon the spot as one made in "subserviency to slavery." A political strife arose at this time which continued for several years; and which at the outset gave rise to a bitterness of feeling almost or nearly equal to that which prevailed here at the outbreak of the Revolution. It was natural that the men of that day who had shared in the triumphs and had been honored with the suffrages of the old Whig party should cling with pardonable conservatism to its organization. Some of our most honored citizens continued to act with it until its final extinction, but the prevailing sentiment sustained Judge Allen, and from that day to this, in all elections where national issues have been involved, Worcester has given a plurality to the candidate of the "free soil," or Republican party. The Town Hall, which had become a City Hall in 1848, was altered in that year, again in 1852 and 1857; and finally in 1866, the changes were made which gave it its present internal appearance.

The Common was set apart as a training-field and for a school-house at a very early period. In the year 1719 a parish church (to replace a rude one of logs, which had been built two years previously, near Trumbull Square) was erected on this common land, by the town, acting in its municipal capacity.

In 1763, this church was torn down and was replaced nearly upon the same site or perhaps a few feet further south,—by the Old South Church of the Revolutionary period, which was extended twenty-five feet southerly in 1834, and has been otherwise altered, without and within, at different times. Until some forty years ago two highways crossed the common diagonally. In the eastern portion, where now stands a grove of trees, was the town burial-ground, used for the purpose from 1730 to 1795. This was originally sur-

rounded by a stone wall, which was removed about the year 1843, and some ten years later a careful plan of the cemetery was made, bounds were set, the inscriptions copied from the gravestones,\* these stones buried under the surface and upon the graves, and the ground put in the neat condition which it now presents. A "pound for the reclaiming of disorderly beasts," 33 feet square and seven feet high, was built upon the east side of the common in 1723, where it remained for over a century. The subsequent location of the pound was on the south side of Shrewsbury Street, some quarter of a mile from Washington Square. The cannon-house of the artillery company, the hearse-house and a hook-and-ladder house long occupied the centre of the common, a "seven-by-nine" school-house built in 1800 was on the south-east corner, and a two-story brick school-house, adapted to four schools, on the north-east corner. The Norwich and Worcester Railroad ran across the common for over thirty years, and the Providence and Worcester Railroad for a few years after its completion, so that until within a short time the tract has been a "common" in the full sense of the word. But now, — with all the buildings except the church and City Hall removed, the trees which thoughtful hands have planted in the past yielding their grateful shade, the monument which a grateful people has erected to the memory of those who fell in the late internal strife, the broad malls, and the fostering care of a Commissioner who is continuing to render to the community valuable service, such as it has received in various ways from four generations of his family, this little inclosure — cut down from its original size to about seven acres — has become a real ornament to the city.

In this connection it may be mentioned that the reservation of "about twenty acres for a training place and to set a school-house upon," provided by the committee of settlement in 1669, was probably never fully made. It certainly was not adhered to. Daniel Gookin, on his petition in 1732, was granted a building-place "not to exceed half an acre at or near the little knoll near the church, where Rev. Mr. Burr began to dig a cellar." His lot measured seven rods on Main Street by ten rods deep, and was north of the south line of Park Street. It is doubtful if he ever built there. Joshua Rice had owned ten acres immediately south of this spot, which he sold to Daniel Ward and Daniel Heywood. At about the same time Moses Rice was allowed from the common land a lot ten rods on the street and eleven rods deep immediately south of the present line of Mechanic Street, "in consideration of some third division land due him." A committee of the proprietors, appointed to make a survey of the common land near the meeting-house, reported in November, 1734, that they found eleven acres and 140 rods including the burial-place, and the road through the common. The plan accompanying their report gives the north-western corner at a point  $11\frac{2}{3}$  rods north of Moses Rice's lot (above de-

\*The work of transcribing the inscriptions and publishing them in pamphlet form had already been done as a labor of love by the present City Treasurer, William Sumner Barton, Esq.



scribed). The line running southerly, passes around the Rice lot to Main Street, and continues southerly 33 rods to the Gookin lot. Following around the north and east sides of the latter, it strikes to the east, running 45 rods. From the first point (opposite Elm Street) the line runs easterly about to the present Norwich Street, from thence about south-east to a point near the corner of Front and Carlton streets, then easterly by the north line of Front Street to about the east line of Church Street, and so, south by east to the intersection with the line first described, probably near the corner of Park and Orange streets. The land lying north of this tract was called indiscriminately ministerial land and school land. Moses Rice opened a hotel upon his lot, but sold it in December, 1738-9 to Cornelius Waldo, who in turn sold to John Chandler, Jr. A joint committee of the proprietors and the inhabitants sold the land between this lot and Front Street to Chandler in 1750, for £4. The proprietors, Feb. 10, 1748-9, sold to Chandler a lot in rear of his Rice lot, extending east to the ministerial land. The last two lots constituted Mr. Chandler's home estate. On the confiscation of his property this estate was assigned as part of his wife's dower, and by a resolve of the Legislature, passed after her death, her dower lands were granted to her children instead of passing to the State. The first encroachment on the school land north of the common was made in 1753, when a lease was given to Palmer Goulding, Jr., of "so much of the public land north of the road (*i. e.* Front Street) as is needful for erecting a malt-house, with needful yard room and place for a well." This lot remained the property of the town until 1814. In 1784, the town sold to Daniel Goulding and John Stanton, a lot nine rods wide and eleven rods deep just west of the malt-house lot. In the same year Mechanic Street was located, and lots on either side were laid out and sold, reserving the lately abandoned burial-ground. A second sale was made in 1786. The tract thus sold was bounded, generally, by Mill Brook on the east, the abandoned location of the Boston and Albany Railroad on the north, and by Main Street and the Chandler estate on the west. The common was fenced in 1834. In 1850, the east line was straightened, reclaiming a portion from the street. The old pound and the hearse-house were sold and removed in 1819.

Before the use of steam to increase the facilities of communication, and before the great increase of population in the eastern part of the State, the project of removing the capitol from Boston to some inland town was frequently discussed. Worcester was naturally the point to which attention was drawn in the event of such a change. A subscription amounting to £1,434, was made in 1793, by the citizens here to secure the erection of suitable buildings for the State offices. The project was mooted at various times afterwards, but when all the railroads had come to lead to "the modern Athens," it was abandoned. At the present time the centre of population of the State is almost, if not quite within the present limits of Boston.

The "Worcester Village Register," printed April 28, 1828, by Griffin &



Morrill, publishers of the "National Ægis," was probably the first directory printed in the town. It was simply a list of the names of 150 to 160 business and professional people. Of the lawyers, the Hon. Isaac Davis, who long since retired from practice, is now (October, 1879) the only one living. Henry W. Miller was the only "merchant" who continues in business. None of the doctors of that time are now living. Daniel Goddard and Joseph Boyden, watchmakers; Clarendon Harris, bookseller; and Levi A. Dowley (now of New York), dealer in boots and shoes, are probably the only other traders of that day who have survived.

In 1828, the Boston and New York mail left Worcester at 5 P. M., arriving in Boston at midnight. It left Boston at 1 P. M., and Worcester at 8 P. M. for New York. Stages with mails also left at 8 A. M. daily for Boston and for Providence, for Lowell three times a week, for Norwich and Keene on Mondays and Fridays, for Albany daily by way of Springfield, and three times a week *via* Amherst; for Athol and for Royalston once a week. Post-riders carried the newspapers weekly on several other routes to different parts of the county, and did an express business for the people.

The "Worcester Village Directory," with an accompanying map, published by Clarendon Harris,\* in 1829, gave the situation of all the buildings in the Centre district, and the names of their owners and occupants. It shows only about thirty streets and lanes, hardly one-twelfth of the number in the present populous part of the city. At that time the "Jo Bill road," Pearl and Pleasant streets were the only roads running west from Main Street; Union Street ran from Market to Thomas Street; Market, School, Thomas, Central and Mechanic streets were the only ones (except Union) between Lincoln Square and Front Street. South of Front Street and east of Main, were South Street (now Park), Church Street, Quinsigamond (now Spring), Cross (now Bridge Street south of Mechanic), Green, Franklin, Temple, Grafton and Water streets. Prospect and Shrewsbury streets were the only ones between Belmont and Grafton streets.

In 1842-3, a "Worcester Business Directory and Advertiser," printed in Boston, was published by A. W. Congdon. In 1844, Henry J. Howland (who was for many years the principal or only book printer here, and who still lives and works at his trade) published the "Worcester Directory," in pamphlet form, containing 1,249 names. Its publication was continued annually by Mr. Howland for 28 years, the volume for 1871 containing 12,620 names. Every year showed an increase over the preceding one, except 1858, which followed the "hard times" of 1857, and 1862, the second year of the war. The directory has now been published for eight years by Messrs. Drew, Allis & Co. The number of names in the current volume, not counting those of

\* For many years the leading bookseller of the town; Secretary of the State Mutual Life Assurance Company from its organization in 1844; Treasurer of the Five Cents Savings Bank from 1855 to 1872.

persons who have died or moved from the city during the year preceding publication, is 19,116. The number of voters registered for the November election, 1879, was 9,879.

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### CHAPTER III.

#### NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT — CITY CHARTER — PAVING STREETS — RAPID GROWTH OF THE PLACE.

THE rapid growth of the town in population, and the developed necessity of a stricter form of government than was practicable under a town organization, led the people to ask for a city charter. At a town meeting, held Nov. 8, 1847, on motion of John Milton Earle, a committee of which Hon. Levi Lincoln was chairman, was chosen to petition for a city charter, which was granted by an act of the Legislature, passed Feb. 29, 1848. A legal meeting of the inhabitants, held on the 18th of March, voted, 1,026 to 487, to accept the charter. The town was divided by the Selectmen into eight wards. A city election was held, at which a "citizen's ticket" was put forward with Hon. Levi Lincoln (Whig) as candidate for mayor, and the names of five Whigs and three Democrats. An opposition ticket, called the "temperance ticket," was put forward with Rev. Rodney A. Miller as the candidate for mayor. Levi Lincoln received 836 votes, and Mr. Miller, 653. The city government convened on the 17th of April, when the oath of office was administered to the new mayor, by Hon. Pliny Merrick, justice of the Court of Common Pleas.

The affairs of the new body corporate were at once arranged on business principles. The liabilities of the town, of the centre school district, and the aqueduct corporation, amounting to \$99,677, were assumed. The city hall was re-arranged for the needs of a city government, and new streets, much needed, were projected. Charles A. Hamilton, who had been town clerk from 1836, was city clerk until 1855; John Boyden, town treasurer for two years, was city treasurer the first year; George Jones was city marshal for five years. The number of polls in 1848, was 3,872; total valuation, \$8,721,100; rate of taxation, \$5.34 per \$1,000. The number of polls in 1879, is 13,935; valuation: real estate, \$30,708,100; personal estate, \$8,877,258; rate of taxation, \$15.60; city debt, \$2,507,100.

The matter of paving a portion of Main Street was first broached in 1846. A committee appointed April 6, made a report on the 27th, which was indefinitely postponed by the town. Another committee was appointed December 26, who reported in March, 1847, through Gov. Lincoln, that the probable expense of paving, from Front Street to Lincoln Square, would be \$12,000. At an adjourned meeting in April, they made a supplementary report, recommending the use of square blocks of granite. The first work was done in

1849, when Main Street was paved from Front Street to Exchange Street. During the next year Front Street was paved from Main Street to the railroad crossing, and the pavement of Main Street was extended northerly.

The development of the different departments of the city and its public institutions, keeping pace with the increase of population, will appear in the succeeding chapters of this narrative.

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## CHAPTER IV.

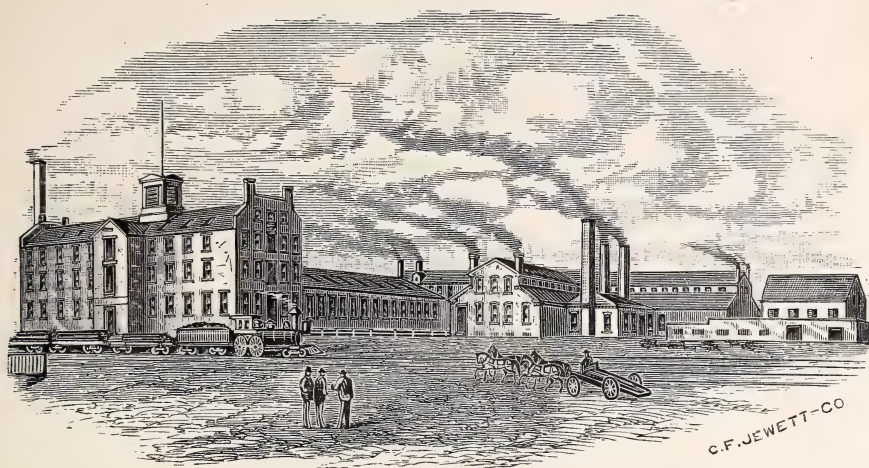
THE HILLS AND VALLEYS OF WORCESTER — LAKE QUINSIGAMOND — BRIDGES AND STREAMS — EARLY SEARCH FOR MINES — THE COAL VEIN — COMPANY FOR WORKING IT — BRICK AND PEAT — GRANITE QUARRYING — SLATE BEDS.

THE hills of Worcester are numerous and beautiful. The chief business portion of the city lies in a narrow valley extending north and south, while the dwellings of the people are built in great measure upon the hills which rise upon either side. The diversity in the landscape presents a pleasing view to the spectator, whether he takes up his position upon any one of the many eminences, or whether in his walks or drives he now ascends and descends another, or if, again, in winding around the base of a third, "fresh woods and pastures new" presents themselves to his vision. Winter Hill, lying partly in Holden, extends some two miles into the city, is about midway between the eastern and western boundaries, and lies between the old road to Holden, and the newer one which skirts the western shore of North Pond. Paine Hill and Green Hill, to the east of Lincoln Street, are flanked on the south-east by Millstone Hill. South of the latter comes Chandler Hill, 748.37 feet above tide water and 278 feet above the level of Norwich Street. Farther to the south, across "Pine Meadow," is Oak Hill, and to the south of this is Sagatabscot Hill which extends southerly into Millbury. West from Sagatabscot, and at the angle of that portion of territory set off to help form Auburn a century ago, stands Pakachong, while along the western boundary of the city, stretches Tataesset (or Tatnuck) Hill. These are the chieftains, but many a lesser eminence rears its head between,—some rugged and rocky, some graceful and grass-grown.

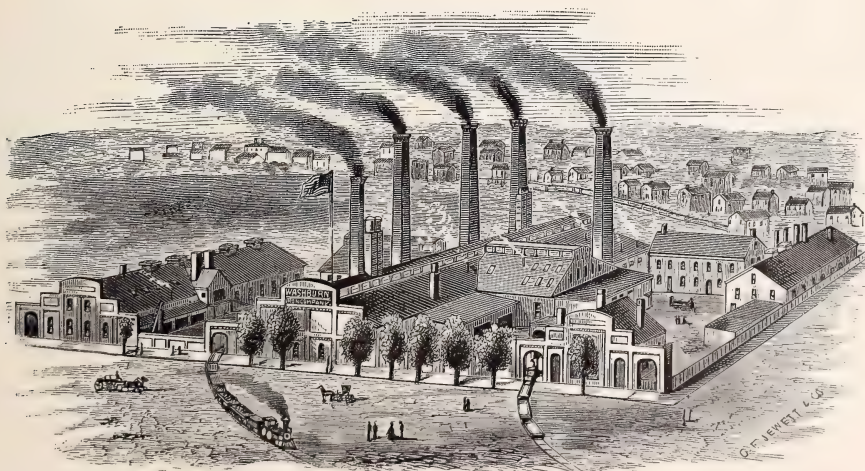
Prof. Hitchcock, in his report on the Geology of Massachusetts, says:—

"This valley possesses precisely those features which art is capable of rendering extremely fascinating. And there is scarcely to be met with, in this or any other country, a more charming landscape than Worcester presents from almost any of the moderately elevated hills that surround it. The high state of agriculture in every part of the valley, and the fine taste and neatness exhibited in all the buildings of this flourishing town, with the great elegance of many edifices, and the intermingling of so





WORKS OF RICE, BARTON & FALES, WORCESTER MASS.



WASHBURN IRON COMPANY'S WORKS, WORCESTER, MASS.



many and fine shade and fruit trees, spread over the prospect beauty of a high order, on which the eye delights to linger. I have never seen, in a community of equal extent, so few marks of poverty and human degradation as in this valley; and it is this aspect of comfort and independence among all classes that enhances greatly the pleasure with which every true American heart contemplates this scene, since it must be considered as exhibiting the happy influence of our free institutions."

Lake Quinsigamond, extending along the eastern boundary between Worcester and Shrewsbury for about four miles, its banks covered with wood and its waters studded with islands, always appreciated by the lovers of nature, has now become a favorite resort for the people, and has acquired a national reputation from the college regattas which were held there for several years and which were attended by students and their friends in large numbers. The early travellers from the east, finding the lake unfordable, — for it has a depth in some parts of eighty feet, — wound around the northern end in their course, but when the Boston and Worcester Turnpike was incorporated, in 1806, the straight course adopted by the engineers brought them to a point where the lake was wide and too deep for an ordinary bridge. A floating bridge was constructed and soon sank in its place; but a second one, more skilfully built, proved successful. The turnpike was abandoned in 1841, and the county commissioners were petitioned to lay out a county road over the route. The sentiment of the town opposed even the maintenance of a town-way, on account of the expense of keeping the now dilapidated bridge in repair. The commissioners, however, in 1845, ordered a town road to be laid out, which compelled the town to rebuild the bridge. But in 1861 the bridge was removed, and thousands of cartloads of gravel, carted from the hillsides on the east and on the west and dumped into the lake, formed a solid causeway over which both man and beast may cross without fear.\* The turnpike, leaving the lake, ascended the steep slope of Millstone Hill and descending again on the west (the line of Belmont Street), crossed the valley of Hermitage Brook by a causeway, and, cutting through a high hill west of Fountain Street, came down into Lincoln Square. The toll-gate, just east of the square, was surmounted by a lofty arch on which was the wooden effigy of a goose. Disrespectful wits pronounced it a fit emblem for the enterprise which had selected so difficult a route.

Weasel Brook enters the city at the north-eastern part by two branches from Holden, and, near the north-east corner of North Pond, is re-enforced by the waters of the latter. Taking now the name of Mill Brook, it flows south through Northville, where it supplies two factories with power, and after serving the Washburn and Moen Manufacturing Company through Salisbury Pond, it is joined by Paine's Brook. But a few years ago Mill Brook was seen on either side of Lincoln Square, and just north of the square was a small island

\* The two embankments met June 27, 1862; the first person to cross was Dr. John Green; the cost of the causeway was \$26,000. The order of the county commissioners provided for a foot-path on the south side, but this has not been built.



dividing the stream. Here once stood the first dam built by human hands in Worcester. Capt. John Wing erected a grist-mill and saw-mill here in 1683 or 1684, and the waters of the stream, restrained, flowed back over the low land and nearly to the line of Lincoln Street. The dam was taken down in after years, but another, a few rods south from the square, built at a later period, stood until a very few years ago. The brook from Lincoln Square nearly a mile southward is now straightened in its course and converted into a covered sewer. Prescott Street, continued, and the new location of Union Street, afford no suspicion of the once important stream which they cover, and a forebay, also concealed from view, compensates the owner of the ancient privilege in some degree for the sacrifice which he has made for the general welfare.

The only tributary of North Pond of any size is a brook coming from Holden, flowing into the most northern corner of the pond and called North Pond Brook.

Between Millstone and Green and Paine hills flows Bear Brook. A portion of its waters, conveyed in an aqueduct, supply the Asylum for the Chronic Insane on Summer Street; the remainder flowing through the valley eastward of Summer Street to Laurel Street, turned eastward and joined Mill Brook just south of School Street. A reservoir at the north-west corner of Laurel and Hanover streets for many years supplied water for a small dam on the west side of Summer Street, where Mr. William Hovey in later times carried on the manufacture of hay-cutters. A pond near the south-east corner of School and Union streets supplied power for the machine-shop which still stands on that site. From this point Mill Brook meandered through the plain, and, near the junction of Grafton and Water streets, received the waters of Pine Meadow Brook coming from the north-east part of Chandler Hill. Flowing through the pond of the "Red Mills," and receiving Piedmont Brook in the "island district," it continued to South Worcester.

Beaver Brook rises in Holden, flows westward of Winter Hill and east of the "Stone-house" range through Peat Meadow, where it receives several tributaries, next receives Lincoln Brook (rising in a spring at the corner of Elm and Russell streets), near May Street, and is joined by Tatnuck Brook in Coes's lesser pond. Tatnuck Brook also rises in Holden, flows southward along the eastern base of Tataesset Hill, receives numerous small tributaries and passes through several reservoirs to its junction with Beaver Brook. Kettle Brook comes from Paxton into Leicester, and, turning eastward after crossing the great road to the latter town, flows beside the road for some two miles, and receiving Lynde Brook in Cherry Valley, soon turns southward into Auburn, receiving Parson's Brook near the town line. Eastward from Stoneville it is joined by Ramshorn Brook, and returning into the city as "Pakachoag Brook," flows into Curtis's Pond. The waters from this and Coes's ponds uniting flow eastward from New Worcester through South Worcester, and

uniting at the north-east base of Pakachoag Hill with Mill Brook form the Blackstone River. The waters of Lake Quinsigamond, with other streams from Shrewsbury and Grafton, form the Little Blackstone River, which flows through Grafton and empties into the Blackstone in the southern part of that town.

The discovery of certain sparkling metals, which proved to be salts of iron, arsenic and lead, in the north part of the town, in 1754, led to the belief that a valuable mine of silver existed in the hillside. A company was formed to explore the spot, furnaces and smelting-houses were erected, shafts were sunk and galleries run; but the cunning superintendent, when he had carried the profitless task as far as it was safe to try the credulity of his employers, departed, ostensibly to consult a person of larger experience; and, as he never returned, the mine was abandoned. Traces of the forsaken work are still visible a few rods east of the Nashua Railroad, just beyond the two-mile post.

To the west of Plantation Street, near its junction with Lincoln Street, lies the "Coal Mine," where it is believed by many that a valuable deposit of anthracite coal exists, which will some day be brought to our markets. Says Lincoln:—

"It was long converted into a paint under the name of black lead, and furnished a cheap and durable covering for roofs and for the exterior of buildings exposed to the weather. In 1826, it was partially explored and began to be worked by Col. Amos Binney. It was found to be a valuable combustible, suitable, even in the impure state presented by the upper strata, for furnaces and places where intense heat and great fires were required. Engagements of business and local circumstances induced him to suspend the prosecution of the undertaking."

The Worcester Coal Company was incorporated in February, 1829, for the purpose of mining the coal, with leave to hold real estate to the amount of \$400,000, and \$200,000 personal property. In the following month Samuel B. Thomas, William E. Green, and Isaac Davis, with their associates, were incorporated as the Worcester Railway Company, with a capital of \$50,000 and authority to build a railway from the mine to the waters of Lake Quinsigamond, and another to the banks of the Blackstone Canal. The owner of the farm in which the great mass of the coal was supposed to lie demanded so high a price for his land that the coal company refused to purchase, and the enterprise was abandoned.

The clayey soil of many parts of the city has proved suitable for the manufacture of brick, which has been an industry of some importance for many years. Peat has been taken in considerable quantity from the South Meadow, on the east side of Sagatabscot Hill, and from Peat Meadow, west of the town; but the Worcester Peat Company, organized some twenty-five years ago, never declared a dividend from its earnings.

Millstone Hill furnishes an abundant supply of dark granite, which, though not popular for the walls of buildings, is admirably suited for foundations.



The rock is composed chiefly of gray quartz and white, foliated feldspar, with only traces of mica, but with enough iron to cause the surface to blacken on exposure to the air. The proprietors of the town, in September, 1733, voted "that one hundred acres of the poorest land on Millstone Hill be left common for the use of the town for building stones." In accordance with this vote the stone has been quarried from that time to the present by such persons as have chosen to do so, and the rights of the people in the premises have been affirmed by the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth.

The "South Ledge," near the southern end of Sagatabscot Hill, furnishes a light-colored granite, which has been much used in former years. The fronts of Butman Row and Granite Row, and the west wall of the main part of the stone court house, are built of this granite. It has also been much used for curb-stones, posts, steps and other purposes.

Argillaceous slate is abundant, and is much used for walls and foundations. The buildings of the Oread Institute are built of this stone, quarried on the spot.

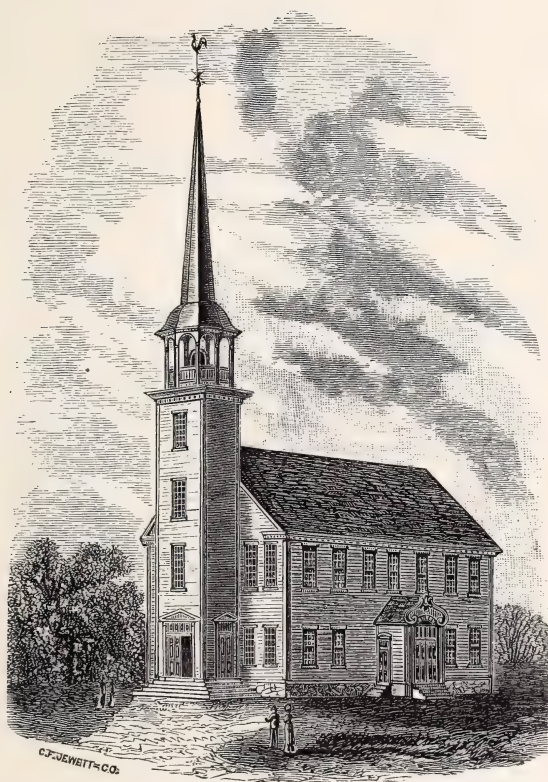
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## CHAPTER V.

CHURCH HISTORY — PREACHING OF WHITEFIELD — PASTORAL SUCCESSION — INGRESS OF UNITARIAN VIEWS — THE BAPTIST DENOMINATION — CATHOLIC PARISHES — METHODIST, FRIENDS', EPISCOPAL AND UNIVERSALIST SOCIETIES — CITY MISSIONS.

THE early history of the town is in some measure identified with the history of the church, for the affairs of both were either managed at the general meetings of the inhabitants, or were settled by concurrent votes of the church and the town. The first regularly settled pastor was Rev. Andrew Gardner, who was ordained in the autumn of 1719 in the newly-erected church on the common. He was a man of eccentric disposition, fond of sports and the chase — a man too worldly-minded, in the opinion of many of his flock, whose ideas of a religious teacher were associated with a different stamp of character. Mr. Gardner had his grievances also, for the grant made on his accepting the office was not forthcoming, and his annual salary was constantly in arrears. The close association of church and state at this time is further shown by the fact that the Legislature was petitioned for aid and relief. Failing to get help from that source, an ecclesiastical council was convened, but this also was powerless to solve the difficulty. On further petitions to the General Court that body passed a resolve recommending the same council to proceed to Worcester, with a view to establish peace in the town. The fear of Indians led the council to meet at Dedham, and by its advice Mr. Gardner was dismissed, Oct. 31, 1722. After enjoying the ministrations of two or three





OLD SOUTH CHURCH, WORCESTER, MASS., AS IT APPEARED IN 1776. (Built in 1763).



other clergymen, temporarily engaged, the church elected Rev. Thomas White as their pastor in August, 1724, but the town refused to concur. Rev. Isaac Burr (an uncle of Vice-President Aaron Burr), ordained Oct. 13, 1725, filled the pulpit until March, 1745. His ministry was generally acceptable, but in the minds of some he failed as an "exhorter," and it was terminated by the mutual desire of himself and the church.

George Whitefield, the inspired preacher, whose fervent eloquence stirred the souls of men in an almost unparalleled manner, visited Worcester on his second visit to this country, in October, 1740. He was accompanied by Gov. Belcher, who had become deeply interested in Whitefield. They spent the night of their arrival at the house of Col. Chandler. An extract from the preacher's diary will be of interest here:—

*"Wednesday, Oct. 15.* Perceived the governor to be more affectionate than ever. After morning prayer, he took me by myself, kissed me, wept, and exhorted me to go on stirring up the ministers; 'for,' said he, 'reformation must begin at the house of God.' As we were going to meeting, says he, 'Mr. Whitefield, do not spare me any more than the ministers: no, not the chief of them.' I preached in the open air, on the common, to some thousands; the word fell with weight indeed; it carried all before it. After sermon, the governor said to me, 'I pray God I may apply what has been said to my own heart. Pray, Mr. Whitefield, that I may hunger and thirst after righteousness.' Dinner being ended, with tears in his eyes he kissed, and took leave of me. Oh, that we may meet in heaven. I have observed that I have had greater power than ordinary whenever the governor has been at public worship. A sign, I hope, that the Most High intends effectually to bring him home and place him at his right hand. . . . Was enabled much to rejoice in spirit. . . . Preached at Leicester, in the afternoon, 6 miles from Worcester, with some, though not so much power as in the morning."

Whether the diminished effect of his exhortations at Leicester should be traced back to himself or should be laid at the doors of his audience, it is difficult at this distance of time rightly to determine.

In the interval between the dismissal of Mr. Burr and the settlement of his successor, the town instructed its committee to consult the Rev. President and Professors of Harvard College as to whom they should engage in a probationary way—a custom which has not prevailed in later times.

A church covenant was adopted Sept. 22, 1746.

Rev. Thaddeus Maccarty of Boston was installed as pastor June 10, 1747. He was styled by John Adams, "though a Calvinist, not a bigot." His ministrations continued until his death, July 20, 1784. During this period the "Congregational" style of singing, in which each singer employed the tune which he considered best adapted to the hymn, or the one with which he was most familiar, gave place, by a recorded vote of the town, to the system of a regular choir, who were ordered to sit in the front seats of the gallery. The seats in the church were assigned at first according to rank, the town, in 1733,



instructing its committee to consider "a person's usefulness, or the station he holds in age and pay, not having regard to plurality of polls, but to real and personal estate." In 1750 an article was inserted in the warrant to give directions that the people sit in the seats assigned to them, "and that they do not put themselves too forward." In the house erected in 1763 the right of selection of pews was given in the order of the subscriptions paid for the new building.

Differences which arose in the religious faith of the people, and other causes, prevented the settlement of a successor to Mr. Maccarty until Sept. 30, 1790, when the Rev. Samuel Austin was installed. At this time a new creed and covenant were adopted, in which the doctrine of the Trinity, hitherto implicitly believed by the majority, was clearly enunciated. Dr. Austin remained here until 1815, when he removed to Burlington, Vt., to assume the office of President of the University of Vermont, though his connection with the parish was not definitely terminated until December, 1818. His name is perpetuated here in the appellation of Austin Street, which runs on the south side of the estate which he occupied during the greater part of his ministry. During his residence here his theology was of the strictest sort, but after his removal he became more liberal in his views, as is shown by his later writings.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, ordained at first as colleague with Dr. Austin, Oct. 9, 1816, asked and received dismissal Oct. 14, 1820. Rev. Aretius B. Hull was pastor from May 23, 1821, until his death, which occurred May 17, 1826. His successor, Rev. Rodney A. Miller, pastor from June 7, 1827, to April 12, 1844, continued to reside in Worcester for a portion of each year until his death, which occurred at Troy, in September, 1876. The succeeding ministers of this church have been: Rev. George P. Smith, March 19, 1845, until his death, Sept. 3, 1852; Rev. Horace James, Feb. 3, 1853, to Jan. 8, 1863, when his relations were severed on account of his absence with the army as Chaplain of the 25th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers; Rev. Edward A. Walker, July 2, 1863, to Sept. 20, 1865; Rev. Royal B. Stratton, Jan. 2, 1867, to April 25, 1872; Rev. Nathaniel Mighill, Sept. 15, 1875, until the spring of 1877, and Rev. L. B. Voorhees, who was installed as the thirteenth pastor June 15, 1877, but whom ill health has recently compelled to resign his office.

The society worshipping at the Old South Church, as well as all those orthodox societies which have existed in Worcester, have carried on their ministry and government "after the Congregational way." Since the abandonment of the Presbyterian church above referred to there has been no society in Worcester affiliated with that school of church government.

Rev. Aaron Bancroft,\* a native of Reading, was invited to supply the Old South pulpit during the illness of Rev. Mr. Maccarty in the summer of 1783.

\* The thirteen children of Dr. Bancroft and Lucretia Chandler, his wife, included Eliza, wife of Hon. John Davis, and George, the diplomat and historian.

He preached again as a candidate for the vacancy which had arisen, in the autumn of 1784. The following January he came again, and at a meeting held in March, a motion was made to settle him as the minister. But the majority of the parish were Trinitarians, while Mr. Bancroft held Unitarian views, and the motion failed. His supporters, who included many families of influence and weight, requested permission of the town to form another society, but this was refused. "Under these circumstances (in the language of a memorial subsequently addressed to the Legislature), seeing no prospect of union, desirous of a minister whose sentiments they approved, wishing the same indulgence to those differing from them, weary of unprofitable contention," the minority withdrew, and on the third Sunday of March, 1785, began to hold meetings in the court-house, where they continued to meet until Jan. 1, 1792. At this time they took possession of the church building erected for their use on Summer Street, — a building subsequently converted into a hotel, but for thirty years past used as a school-house. The new organization met with little sympathy in the neighborhood or in the State. At the ordination of Dr. Bancroft, Feb. 1, 1786, the only two clergymen of the county whom it had been considered safe to ask to assist, were Rev. Timothy Harrington of Lancaster, who gave the charge to the people, and Rev. Zabdiel Adams of Lunenburg, who extended the right hand of fellowship. The old parish continued to demand the payment of ministerial rates from the associates in the new one, and stoutly resisted the efforts to effect a legal separation; but in November, 1787, an act of incorporation was obtained from the Legislature, and from that time the society has been known as the Second Parish. Dr. Bancroft was, for the first years of his ministry, almost "a stranger in a strange land." His religious views were unpopular with very many of the townspeople, and the number of clergymen anywhere with whom he could exchange pulpits was very limited. In time, however, the Unitarian denomination increased throughout the State, and more leniency was shown them by those of a more rigid faith. He continued to minister to his flock for the long term of fifty-three and one-half years, until their mutual relations were severed by his death, Aug. 19, 1839. Rev. Alonzo Hill \* was ordained as colleague with Dr. Bancroft March 28, 1827, and retained his connection with the society nearly forty-four years, or until his death, Feb. 1, 1871. Rev. Edward H. Hall, installed as colleague with Dr. Hill, Feb. 10,

\* Dr. Hill was born at Harvard, June 20, 1800, and was graduated at Harvard College in 1822. He was for more than twenty-five years a member of the school committee. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity at Cambridge in 1851. His character is well summed up in a resolution passed by the American Antiquarian Society, of which he was recording secretary, bearing "testimony to the fact that, as a patriotic citizen, and as the beloved pastor of one of the principal churches in this city for more than forty years, Dr. Hill was eminently faithful in the fulfilment of every duty; that he was remarkable for his unfailing kindness and geniality of manners and feeling to all classes of people, whether parishioners or only neighbors and fellow-citizens, and for the earnestness and ability with which he advocated every measure for the promotion of education and good morals — continuing, until the last moment of consciousness, to manifest the same interest in the welfare of others that marked and distinguished his life."



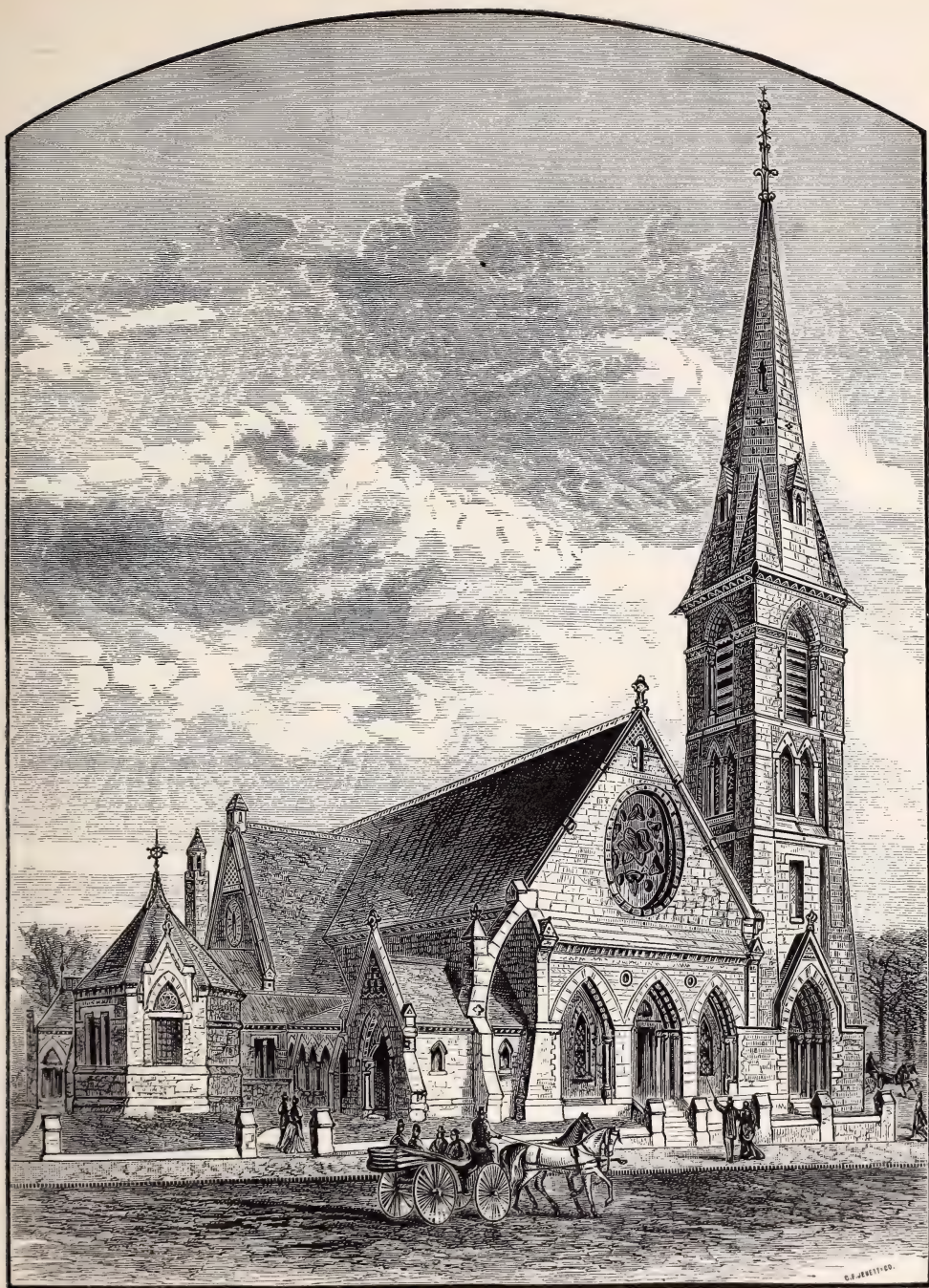
1869, continues to fill the position of pastor at the present time. The society moved from Summer Street in August, 1829, to a new brick church which had been erected on Court Hill. This was destroyed by fire in the evening of Aug. 24, 1849, and the present edifice, built of brick, covered with mastic, was dedicated March 26, 1851.

The establishment of the Second Parish and society was followed in November, 1812, by that of the first Baptist Society. James Wilson, the father of the movement, came to Worcester from Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1795. Here he found three sympathizers with his religious tenets, and in process of time accessions were made, either from new arrivals or from those members of Dr. Austin's parish, who had become disaffected by reason of his political sentiments, which he had expressed in terms too strong for their taste. Elder William Bentley, who came from Tiverton, R. I., was installed as pastor of the new society, the services being held in the Unitarian Church. The number of original members was twenty-nine. The first church of the society, built upon the site of the present one, was erected in 1813, enlarged in 1827, and burned in 1836. A new church was begun at once, completed in the following summer, and enlarged in the winter of 1867-8 to its present dimensions. Elder Bentley remained but three years. His successor, Rev. Jonathan Going, settled in November, 1815, remained for sixteen years, during which time he taught the Latin school for one year, labored efficiently in the cause of school education, and, it is said, established the first Sunday-school in the county. His successors have been: Rev. Jonathan Aldrich, Oct. 27, 1835, to May, 1838; Rev. Samuel B. Swain, April, 1839, to May 4, 1854; Rev. J. D. E. Jones, April 1, 1855, to April, 1859; Rev. Lemuel Moss, Aug. 30, 1860, to September, 1864; Rev. Hiram K. Pervear, May, 1865, to January, 1873; and Rev. Benjamin D. Marshall, the present pastor, installed May 16, 1873.

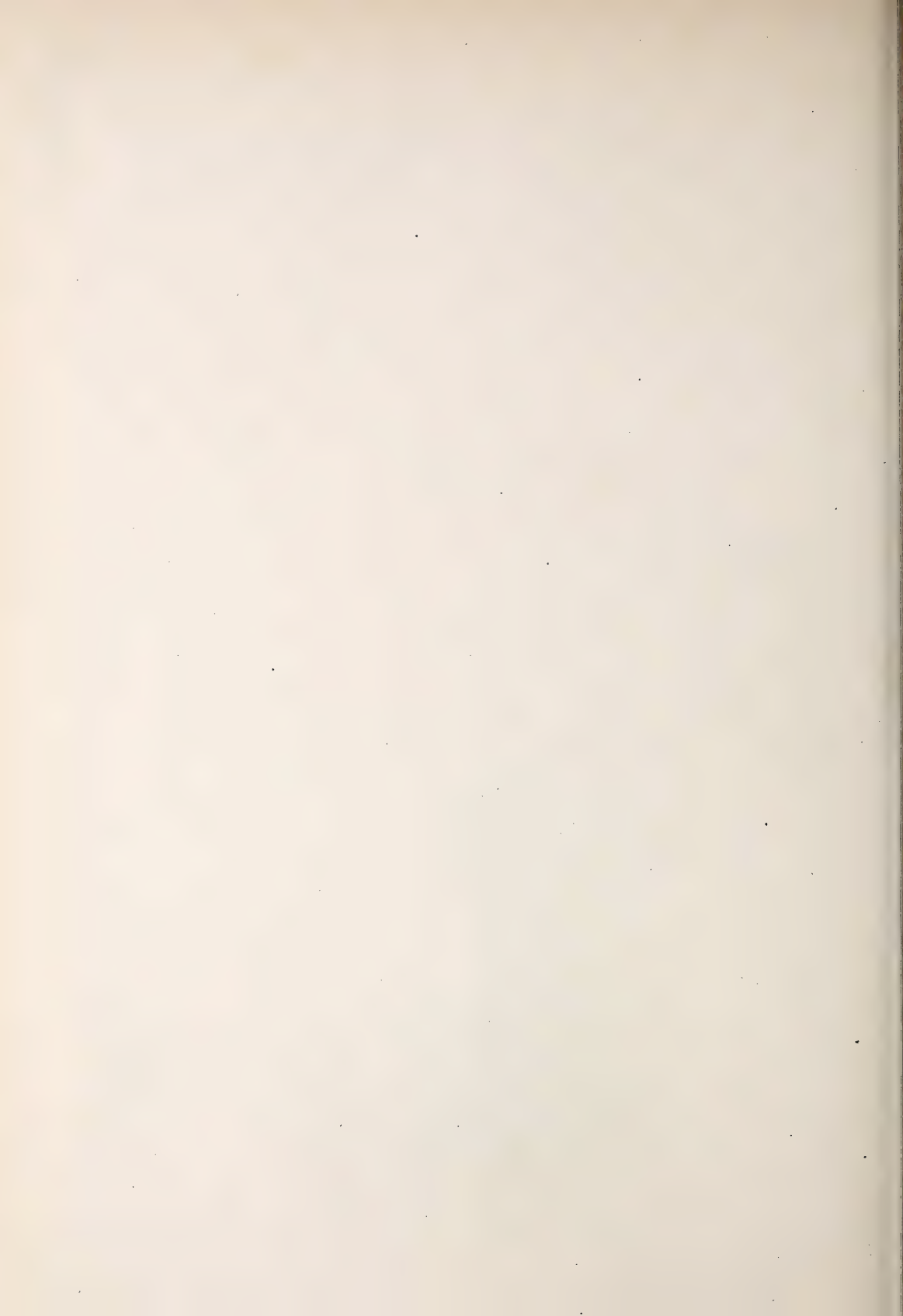
The second serious secession from the Old South Church took place in January, 1819. The Calvinist Church was constituted Aug. 17, 1820, and on the 8th of February, 1822, the Calvinist Society was organized, the first meeting for worship being held in the court-house on the first Sunday of April, 1822. Rev. Loammi Ives Hoadley, who had supplied the pulpit for some time previously, was ordained as pastor Oct. 15, 1823, on occasion of the dedication of the new church, the gift of Hon. Daniel Waldo. On the 28th of June, 1828, the members of the Old South and Calvinist churches united in the sacrament of communion, in token of the re-establishment of Christian fellowship and in remembrance of their common Redeemer. Mr. Hoadley, whose illness compelled him to seek a dismissal in May, 1829, was succeeded Jan. 28, 1830, by Rev. J. S. C. Abbott. Rev. David Peabody was pastor from May, 1835, to 1838; Rev. Seth Sweetser \* from Dec. 19, 1838, until his death, March

\* Dr. Sweetser was born at Newburyport, March 15, 1807, and graduated at Harvard College in 1827. He taught school for two years at Geneseo, N. Y., and was for two years tutor at Cambridge. Fitting for the ministry at Andover Theological Seminary, he began his pastoral life as home mis-





ALL SAINTS CHURCH, WORCESTER, MASS.





24, 1878; Rev. Horace E. Barnes, colleague of Dr. Sweetser from Nov. 19, 1874, to May 3, 1876; and Rev. Daniel Merriman, Feb. 13, 1878, to the present time. The name of this society was changed by act of the Legislature of 1879 to "The Central Society in Worcester."

The first arrival of Catholic believers, in any number, was about the year 1826, when Irish laborers came to the town to work in digging the Blackstone Canal. In 1834, Rev. James Fitton (now pastor of a church at East Boston), laid the foundations of a church on Temple Street. The church, which was of wood, was afterwards enlarged, and some twenty years later a large brick edifice, the present St. John's Church, was built just east of the original one. Father Fitton's successors have been Revs. A. Williamson, Matthew W. Gibson, J. A. McAvoy, John Boyce, Patrick T. O'Reilly (now Bishop of this diocese), and Thomas Griffin and Thomas J. Conaty, the last two being the present rector and curate.

The first Methodist Episcopal Society formed in Worcester, was organized in 1834. Rev. J. A. Merrill preached for three months in the spring of that year, and in June, the Rev. George Pickering was assigned to the charge by the New England Conference. He was succeeded in the following year by Rev. John T. Burrill, during whose ministration the first church was built, on the south side of Exchange Street (then called Columbian Avenue), just easterly of Union Street. This church was destroyed by fire Feb. 19, 1844, and a new one, of brick, was built on Park Street, facing the common. This church was sold in 1869, to the French Catholics, and the society moved to their new edifice, Trinity Church, at the corner of Main and Chandler streets. The frequent changes in the pastorate of Methodist churches, made in accordance with the code of discipline peculiar to the denomination, render it impracticable to give a complete and accurate list of all who have been stationed over this and the other Methodist churches here. The present pastor of Trinity Church is Rev. John A. Cass.

The first regularly conducted services of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Worcester, were held by Rev. Thomas H. Vail, the present Bishop of Kansas, on Dec. 13, 1835. The society for a long time was slow of growth, and it was not until the year 1846, that a church was built for their use on the south side of Pearl Street, — enlarged in 1864, 1868 and 1871, and destroyed by fire April, 7, 1874. Their beautiful new place of worship, All Saints Church, at the corner of Pleasant and Irving streets, was dedicated Jan. 4, 1877. Bishop Vail's successors have been the Revs. F. C. Putnam, George T. Chapman, George H. Clark, Nathaniel T. Bent, A. M. Morrison, Wm. H. Brooks, D.D., A. C. Patterson, E. W. Hagar, and William R. Huntington, the present pas-

sionary at Gardiner, Me., where he was ordained in 1836. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Amherst College in 1852. He was for twelve years a member of the school committee, and has been pronounced by the President of the Free Institute to be "the father" of that institution. His convictions were firm, but he was liberal towards all. His life was a benediction to the community where it was passed.



tor, ordained Dec. 3, 1862, and the longest settled minister, save one, in the city.

The Society of Friends had long maintained a meeting at Mulberry Grove, in the north part of Leicester. The families of that denomination who came hither from that town and elsewhere about 1816 and in subsequent years, continued to repair to Leicester for worship until 1837, when they obtained leave to hold branch meetings here, occupying a room over Boyden & Fenno's jewelry store in Paine's Block. These meetings, save when some minister from abroad visited them, were generally "silent." In 1846, the society built their present meeting-house on land given by two of their number,\* at the corner of Oxford and Chatham streets, and from that time the meeting has been independent of the one at Leicester. The latter, in fact, is now given up, on account of the removal or death of its former members. The Friends have no "settled" minister to whom they pay a salary, but enjoy the ministrations of such of their number as are called by the Spirit to the work and are approved by the body of ministers and elders of the district or "quarter" to which they belong. Several "accepted ministers" are now resident here, who are held in high esteem by the denomination.

A Universalist society was formed June 3, 1841, and the church was organized in due form Nov. 21, 1843. A plain wooden church, two stories high, the lower story fitted for stores, was built in that year on the south-east corner of Main and Foster streets. From this the society removed, June 28, 1871, to their more imposing and substantial edifice on Pleasant Street, at the foot of Chestnut Street. Their pastors have been Revs. S. P. Landers, Albert Case, O. H. Tillotson, J. G. Adams, L. M. Burrington, B. F. Bowles, T. E. St. John, and Moses H. Harris.

The "Second Adventists," then generally known as "Millerites," began holding meetings in 1840. A church was regularly organized in 1850; their present house of worship is on the north side of Central Street.

The Disciples of Christ, organized in 1860 by Elders W. A. S. Smyth and Parritt Blaisdell, have a church on the south side of Thomas Street.

In the autumn of 1834 a peaceable secession from the two existing Orthodox societies took place, twenty-seven persons from the Old South and nineteen from the Calvinist Church being dismissed and recommended to the new one. These, with seventeen others, united to constitute the Union Church, Feb. 3, 1836. The first parish meeting was held March 5, 1836, and the brick church, built on the north side of Front Street, facing the common, was dedicated July 6, 1836, the opening and closing prayers being given by the pastors of the Baptist and Methodist churches respectively. Rev. Jonathan E. Woodbridge, installed as pastor a few months later, was succeeded in 1838 by Rev. Elam Smalley, and he in turn, in 1855, by Rev. Ebenezer Cutler, D. D., who resigned in February, 1878, since which time Rev. George H. Gould, D. D.,

\* Samuel H. Colton and Anthony Chase.

has been the acting pastor. During the present year (1879), the church building has been taken down, and a more modern and imposing one is going up on its site.

The Salem Street Church was organized June 14, 1848, with Rev. George Bushnell as pastor, succeeded in 1858 by Rev. Merrill Richardson, and he in 1871 by Rev. Charles M. Lamson.

Plymouth Church, organized July 7, 1869, settled Rev. George W. Phillips as their pastor Dec. 28, 1871, and moved into their stone church at the head of Pearl Street April 29, 1875.

Piedmont Church, organized Sept. 18, 1872, engaged Rev. Dr. George H. Gould as acting pastor until July 1, 1877. Their church, at the corner of Main and Piedmont streets, was dedicated Jan. 30, 1877. Their present pastor, Rev. D. O. Mears, was installed July 3, 1877.

The Mission Chapel Society, constituted as a church Dec. 23, 1864, occupy the building on Summer Street, the gift of the late Ichabod Washburn, in which a free mission had been sustained, largely at his expense, since about the year 1855.

The increase in the number of Unitarians in Worcester, and the growth of the town in a southerly direction, led to the formation of a second society, which was organized as the "Church of the Unity," Jan. 31, 1846. They built a church on the north side of Elm Street, near Main. Their first pastor, Rev. Edward Everett Hale, remained with them until 1856, when he removed to Boston. His successor, Rev. Rush R. Shippen, installed Dec. 22, 1858, resigned in 1871 to become secretary of the American Unitarian Association. The present pastor, Rev. Henry Blanchard, was settled May 4, 1873.

Prior to the destruction of the original Baptist Church, it had been considered expedient to form a second society. An act of incorporation was obtained April 6, 1836, and a site was purchased on Elm Street, but on account of the fire which happened soon after, the separation did not take place at that time, the whole body of the denomination giving their support to the erection of a new edifice. Five years later, however, the time seemed to have come for a separation, and the Second (or Pleasant Street) Baptist Society was formed Dec. 28, 1841. Their church was dedicated Jan. 4, 1844. The pastors have been Revs. John Jennings, Charles K. Colver, D. W. Faunce, J. J. Tucker, David Weston, I. R. Wheelock and S. R. Holman. The Third (or Main Street) Baptist Society, organized in July, 1853, has had for its pastors, Revs. H. L. Wayland, Joseph Banvard, George B. Gow, F. W. Bakeman and George E. Horr. The Dewey Street Chapel, founded in 1871, as a non-sectarian place of worship, came into the control of the Baptists in the following year. Its pastors have been Revs. L. M. Sargent and D. F. Lamson.

The second Methodist Society was organized July 20, 1845, and has its church on Laurel Street, opened for worship in 1848. Zion's Church, especially for colored people, was organized in 1846; its place of worship is on Exchange



Street. Webster Square Church was organized in April, 1860. The Bethel (also for colored people) was organized in 1867. Grace Church, organized May 5, 1867, is on Walnut Street; and the Coral Street Church was organized in 1872.

Other Catholic churches are St. Anne's Church, on Shrewsbury Street, established in 1855, with Rev. John J. Power as pastor. Soon after the establishment, in 1869, of St. Paul's Church (the imposing edifice on Chatham Street), of which he continues to be rector, he was succeeded by his brother, Rev. Wm. A. Power, and the latter by Rev. Dennis Scannell. In 1869 was also organized the Church of Notre Dame des Canadiens on Park Street, of which Rev. J. B. Primeau is pastor; and, in 1874, the Church of the Immaculate Conception, on Prescott Street, Rev. Robert Walsh, pastor. Catholic services are held regularly at the chapel of the Sisters of Notre Dame on Vernon Street, by the priests of St. John's parish, and at the College of the Holy Cross by the Jesuit fathers in charge of that institution. Another church, of brick, to seat eight hundred worshippers, is in process of construction on Cambridge Street, a little west of the railroad to Providence; it is styled the Church of the Sacred Heart.

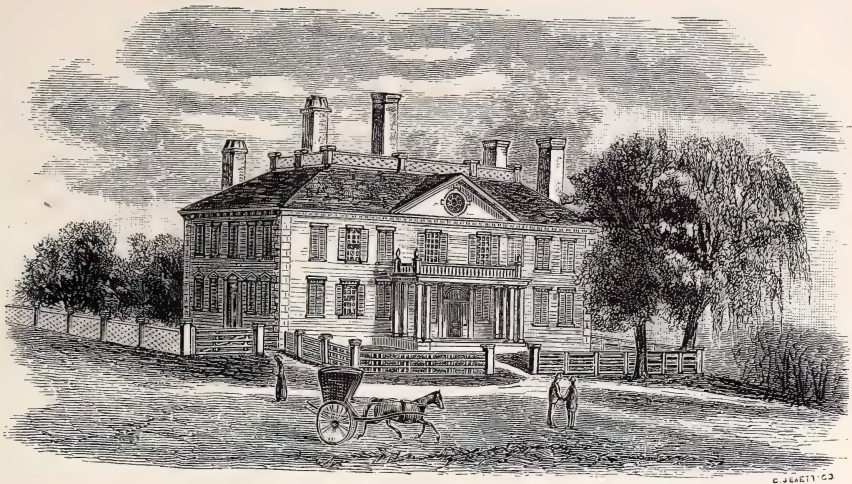
St. Matthew's Chapel at South Worcester, dedicated Sept. 21, 1871, was built upon land purchased by communicants at All Saints Church, from a mission fund established by the ladies of the latter church in 1869, which was increased by subscriptions from the members of All Saints and from people of South Worcester. Rev. John Gregson was the first officiating minister. In May, 1874, an independent parish was formed under the name of St. Matthew's Church, with H. L. Parker and M. J. Whittall as wardens; Sampson Austin, James L. Ballantyne, Wm. Lancaster, Wm. R. Hamilton and Sumner Cummings as vestrymen. The rectors have been, Revs. Henry Mackay, Amos Skeele, Alex. Mackay Smith and Rev. George O. Osgood. During the current year (1879) the church and land have been deeded, free from debt, to the parish, by Sumner Pratt, Esq.

The North End Baptist Mission was established Aug. 1, 1875, as the nucleus of a new Baptist society at the north part of the city.

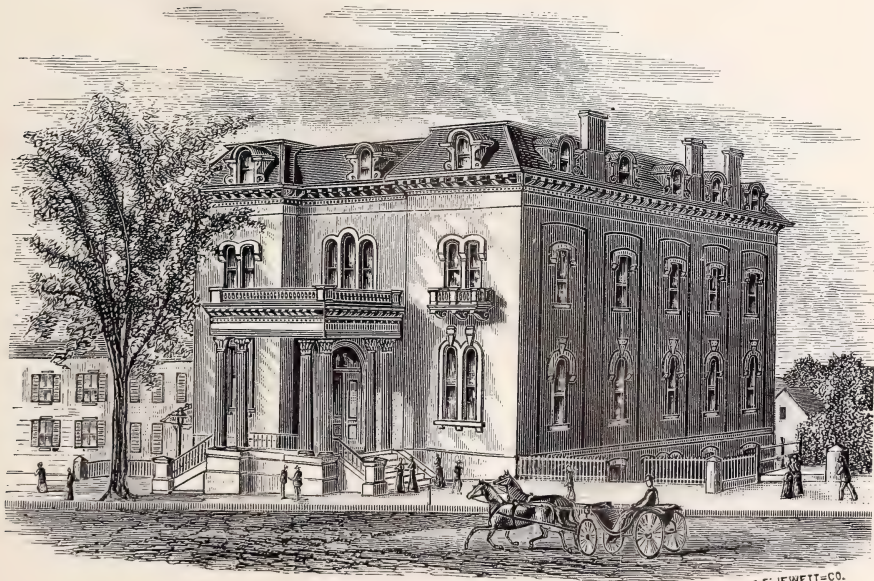
The Central Church for many years maintained a mission in the west part of the city, on John Street, and during the present year have dedicated a chapel at the corner of Highland and Boynton streets.

It is not within the scope of the writer's task to pay the tribute which would be meet, to the memory and worth of the great body of the clergymen who have ministered to the people of Worcester. Within their number has been comprehended an amount of talent, culture and erudition, such as can be found identified with very few communities. Many of them gave the best portion of their lives to the churches here, and lent their aid to every effort for the education and moral improvement of the people. Respected and beloved while here, their departure, whether to enter on other fields of labor or upon





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the new life for which they had striven to prepare their flocks, was keenly felt, and the loss was considered a public one ; for sectarian lines have rarely caused any division in society here.

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## CHAPTER VI.

### INDIAN THREATENINGS — THE FRENCH WAR — EXPEDITION TO LOUISBURG — VARIOUS ENLISTMENTS.

WE have already seen that the early settlers in Worcester were harassed by the attacks, real or threatened, of their Indian neighbors. King Philip's war in 1675-6, and "Queen Anne's war," from 1704 to 1713, caused the little settlements, twice founded, to be abandoned. From 1713 to the incorporation of the town in 1722, the people were unmolested ; but in the latter year the incursions of the French from Canada stirred up many of the Indians remaining in the State to join their banner, and Worcester furnished five men for a company of scouts, under command of Major John Chandler. The name of Chandler was for several generations most prominent in the affairs of Worcester. In the autumn of the following year seven men enlisted, and served through the winter, five of them being posted at Rutland. In the spring of 1724 hostile Indians were seen lurking in the woods close at hand, and the selectmen, in view of the danger and the isolated position of the place, — the nearest towns on the north being Lancaster and Rutland, — petitioned Gov. Dummer "so far to commiserate their distressed state as to send some soldiers to strengthen the front garrisons and to scout the woods." Six weeks later Gershom Rice addressed a letter to John Chandler (then promoted to be colonel), laying before him "the distressed condition of this poor place." He represented that his townsmen were constantly under surprising fears of an attack, though none had yet been made : "the last night our town was alarmed by (as one of our inhabitants says) discovering an Indian, so that this day (Sunday) we have but a thin meeting, — the more because some dare not stay from home. . . ."

He continues : —

"We have an expectation upon your honor to be a father to us, and we hope the country will not see us stand here waiting to be a prey to our enemies. We are informed that it is objected against our having assistance, that Brookfield, Rutland and Leicester defend us ; but let any one consider that understands the ground. It is affirmed to me by those that should be best able to know, that it is fourteen miles from Brookfield to Rutland, and that a line drawn from Brookfield to Rutland will be fifteen miles off our settlement. As to Leicester, the people there more need help from us than are able to render us any, as likewise do Shrewsbury and Hassanamesit. Rutland and Brookfield being well garrisoned and manned, what is more common than for them (the enemy) to go a little further for advantage in weaker spots? The late



instance at Hatfield, as well as many others formerly and lately, are sufficient witnesses. If we cannot be supported now about our harvest, we must be starved out of necessity. Instead of assistance, we cannot but remind your honor, that we now have five of our soldiers at Rutland in the service. We are informed by rumor, we are allowed ten soldiers, for which we are thankful; but pray, it be possible, that the number might be doubled, and that they might be sent as speedily as possible. I am ashamed I detain your honor so long. I shall conclude by wishing you all prosperity. I am your honor's to command,

GERSHOM RICE."

Although these two petitions were strenuously supported by Col. Chandler, the number of similar demands prevented a prompt compliance with the request; but, in the month of July, Col. Chandler was directed to impress twenty men for frontier service. A portion of these, with detachments from o'her regiments, — a total force of nineteen men, acting as independent guards, — were stationed at Worcester, where they remained until disbanded, Oct. 29, 1724. The Indians, who had retired to Canada for the winter, made their way southward again in the following spring. April 30, 1725, the selectmen again addressed Gov. Dummer, expressing their apprehension that unless they were afforded some relief, "the corn cannot be planted, the earth tilled, the harvests gathered or food provided, and that the settlements in the town will be entirely broken up," and asking for "some speedy assistance of soldiers, to defend us and scout the woods." This request was complied with during the following month; but, although there were frequent alarms, and Indians were seen prowling occasionally in the neighborhood, no actual conflict took place, and the conclusion of a peace in the ensuing winter freed the inhabitants from further fear of invasion, and allowed them to plant their corn and gather their harvests without dread.

In the army of four thousand men which the Massachusetts Colony fitted out, under Gen. William Pepperell, in 1745, for the conquest of Cape Breton, Worcester was represented. What was her exact quota is not known; but one of her citizens, Benjamin Gleason, fell before the walls of Louisburg, then styled "the Gibraltar of North America," and Adonijah Rice, the first native of the town, served during the campaign which resulted in the surrender of the stronghold.

Sept. 23, 1746, a town meeting here was disturbed by the arrival of a messenger sent by Gov. Shirley to carry the alarm of the French invasion. Before sunset the whole military force was collected and ready for the march, which a second messenger pronounced unnecessary.

Eight soldiers from Worcester formed part of the garrison of Fort Massachusetts, at Williamstown; then called Hoosick, from December, 1747, to March, 1748.

In the summer of 1748 a company of fifty-three soldiers from Worcester, under Major Daniel Heywood, joined a force detailed to drive the marauding Indians back to Canada. They returned after an absence of seventeen days, during which time the red-skins withdrew without venturing to give battle.

In 1754 thirteen Worcester men were in service at forts on the Kennebec River.

In 1755 seventeen soldiers from this town were in the British service in Nova Scotia, and seventeen at Fort Cumberland. Adonijah Rice and another took part in the first expedition against Crown Point in August, and in September fourteen soldiers were impressed for the army.

Of the unfortunate people of Acadia who were driven from their homes by New England soldiers, acting under royal command, in 1755, eleven were billeted upon Worcester, where their distressed condition excited sympathy, and their character and habits respect. The elder ones of these exiles died of old age and broken hearts. The survivors joined their countrymen in Canada, after a sojourn here of about twelve years.

A goodly number of soldiers enlisted here in 1756, to swell the army raised to act against Crown Point. Regimental head-quarters were established here, the troops living in tents which whitened the hillsides. James Putnam, one of the greatest lawyers of the day, afterwards attorney-general of the province, led the militia companies of the town, with other levies, westward, setting out on the 30th of September. They halted at Westfield to be joined by the troops of Hampshire; but before the latter were ready to move, word came that their services would not be needed, and they returned.

In 1757 the appearance of a French fleet off the coast at one time, and at another the siege of Fort William Henry kept the colonists continually in a state of military preparation. On the fall of the fort two companies of Worcester militia, — one of fifty-six men, under Col. John Chandler, and another of fifty-four men, under his brother Gardner Chandler, — marched to Sheffield, in the western part of the province, to support the regular troops in resisting the French, should they, as seemed probable, invade the State. In the same campaign eight of our men served in a troop of cavalry, under Lieut. Jonathan Newhall of Leicester, which joined the regular army at Fort Edward, and ten others enlisted and served in the army. Altogether, Worcester furnished one hundred and thirty men in this year, the largest number in any one year prior to the Revolution. The militia who went to Sheffield were soon dismissed.

In 1758 Worcester furnished twenty men for duty. In 1759 twenty-three non-commissioned officers and privates served in a company of which Daniel McFarland was lieutenant, and afterwards captain, in the campaign of Gen. William Amherst; and the whole number from the town, doing military duty, was forty-three. In 1760 the number was seventeen, twenty-six in 1761, and only eight in 1762, the closing year of the war which wrested from France all her American possessions east of the Mississippi, except some fishing stations near Newfoundland.

## CHAPTER VII.

THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION — POPULAR DEMANDS — FEMALE ACTION —  
DIFFICULTY WITH COURTS — WATCHING OF TORIES — THE EXPUNGED RECORD  
— HUMILIATION OF ROYALISTS — THE ALARM OF CONCORD AND LEXINGTON —  
RECEPTION OF THE DECLARATION — A WARM CELEBRATION — CONSTITUTION  
RATIFIED — REJOICINGS AT PEACE.

WORCESTER has ever been loyal to the government so long as that government, by its course of policy, has commanded her respect; but the first manifestations of injustice or tyranny have always met with her indignant protest or her sturdy resistance. When in 1754 a bill was proposed in the Colonial Legislature, imposing an excise duty on wines and spirits, and containing the extraordinary provision that every householder should render an account, under oath, of the amount of such liquor used in his family, not purchased of a licensed vendor, and should pay a duty thereon, a town meeting here unanimously resolved that it was "contrary to the mind of the town" that the bill should become a law, and John Chandler, the town's representative, was instructed to oppose it.

The famous "Stamp Act," passed by the British Parliament March 22, 1765, to take effect November 1, excited the same indignation here that it did throughout the Colonies, and at a town meeting held Oct. 21, Capt. Ephraim Doolittle, the representative, was instructed to join in no measure countenancing the act.

That the government which they had helped with their blood and treasure to maintain, should be one of equitable "laws and not of men," had now become a fixed idea with the people of Worcester. At the town meeting in May, 1766, the representative, Capt. Doolittle, was instructed to use the whole of his influence and endeavor, that no person holding any fee or military office, whatever, be chosen into the Provincial Council; that the General Court be held in an open manner; that a new fee-table be established, not giving to any officer except the Governor "more or less than you would be willing to do the same service for, yourself"; that one man be not invested with more than one office at a time, except it be compatible with the true interests of the people; that the excise law be repealed; with other instructions breathing a similar spirit.

At the May meeting in 1767 the town issued instructions to Joshua Bigelow, its representative-elect, the first two articles of which were as follows:—

"1. That you use your influence to maintain and continue that harmony and good will between Great Britain and this province [which] may be most conducive to the prosperity of each, by a steady and firm attachment to English liberty and the charter rights of this province, and [that] you willingly suffer no invasions, either through pretext of precedency, or any other way whatsoever: and if you find any encroachments on our charter rights, that you use your utmost ability to obtain constitutional redress.



"2. That you use your influence to obtain a law to put an end to that unchristian and impolitic practice of making slaves of the human species in this province; and that you give your vote for none to serve in his majesty's Council, who, you may have reason to think, will use their influence against such a law, or that sustain any office incompatible with such trust: and in such choice, prefer such gentlemen, and such only, who have distinguished themselves in the defence of our liberty."

He was also instructed to use his influence to reduce the fee-table of the Province; to relieve the people from sustaining so many Latin grammar-schools; to inquire into the general neglect of the militia, and "endeavor a redress" of the grievance, "without which, we apprehend, in time we may be made an easy prey of by the enemies of Great Britain"; to take special care of the liberty of the press, and endeavor to make this Province reciprocally happy with our mother country.

The repeal of the Stamp Act had been followed, in June, 1767, by a measure even more odious, — the act imposing duties on paper, glass, tea and other commodities imported into the Colonies. While the majority of the people were restive under the harsh measures inaugurated by the mother country, many of the more influential citizens, including the Chandlers, Paines, James Putnam and others were loyal to the British Government, and sustained its measures. At a town meeting in March, 1768, an attempt to endorse the resolves of the Legislature, encouraging domestic manufactures, and dissuading the people from purchasing the articles subject to import duty, failed, through "parliamentary tactics." But a paper was soon after put in circulation and generally signed, in which the subscribers solemnly promised and engaged, "each with the other, to give all possible encouragement to our own manufactures: to avoid paying the tax imposed by said act, by not buying any European commodity, but what is absolutely necessary; that we will not, at funerals, use any gloves except those made here, or purchase any article of mourning, on such occasion, but what shall be absolutely necessary; and we consent to abandon the use, so far as may be, not only of all the articles mentioned in the Boston resolves, but of all foreign teas, which are clearly superfluous, our own fields abounding in herbs more healthful, and which we doubt not, may, by use, be found agreeable: we further promise and engage, that we will not purchase any goods of any persons, who preferring their own interest to that of the public, shall import merchandize from Great Britain, until a general importation takes place; or of any trader who purchases his goods of such importer: and that we will hold no intercourse, or connexion, or correspondence, with any person who shall purchase goods of such importer or retailer; and we will hold him dishonored, an enemy to the liberties of his country and infamous, who shall break this agreement."

The patriotic ladies of the town held the first "woman's rights' meeting" recorded in our annals, and agreed to give up the use of tea, substituting a native shrub — "Labrador tea" — in its place. The royalists, however, con-

vened another assembly, which reconsidered the action of the female patriots; but public sentiment was stronger than tea, and those who insisted on indulging in the cheering cup, did so by stealth and in secret.

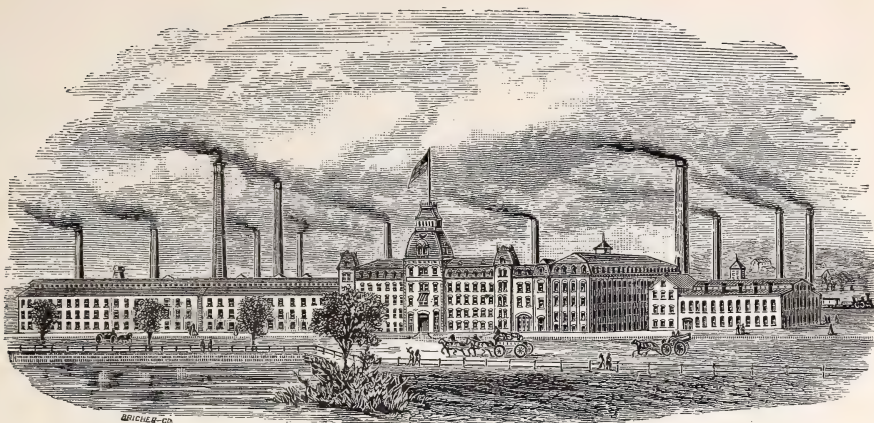
During the five years succeeding 1768 stirring events took place in Boston, and in other parts of the Colonies. Worcester was undoubtedly represented at the convention of delegates from the different towns which met in Boston on Sept. 22, 1768, called on account of "a prevailing apprehension of war with France." The landing of two regiments of troops at Boston a few days later, the adjournment of the Assembly to Cambridge, by Gov. Bernard, in the following year, and the "State Street Massacre" in 1770, helped to keep the public mind inflamed. A town meeting was held in March, 1773, to consider the "Boston Pamphlet," in which a large committee of the popular leaders of that town had recited the grievances which Massachusetts had suffered since the accession of the reigning sovereign. In accordance with its suggestions, William Young, Timothy Bigelow, and John Smith were chosen a "Committee of Correspondence," to correspond with similar committees in other towns in the Province.

"The American Political Society" was formed Dec. 27, 1773, to advise with each other on proper methods to be pursued respecting their common rights and liberties, civil and religious. Thirty-one respectable citizens joined this society at the outset, and the number was afterwards increased to seventy-one. Its proceedings were strictly secret, and much of the business of the town meetings was "cut and dried" by this society during the two and one-half years of its existence. The term of the Superior Court for the county of Worcester was to be held in April, 1774. The chief justice, Peter Oliver, had been presented for impeachment by the Assembly, because he had confessed to receiving the bounty of the crown, independently of the grants of the General Court. It was believed that he would be present to hold the court. The operations of the society and its mysterious ability to prognosticate future events are well shown by its vote of April 4, 1774:—

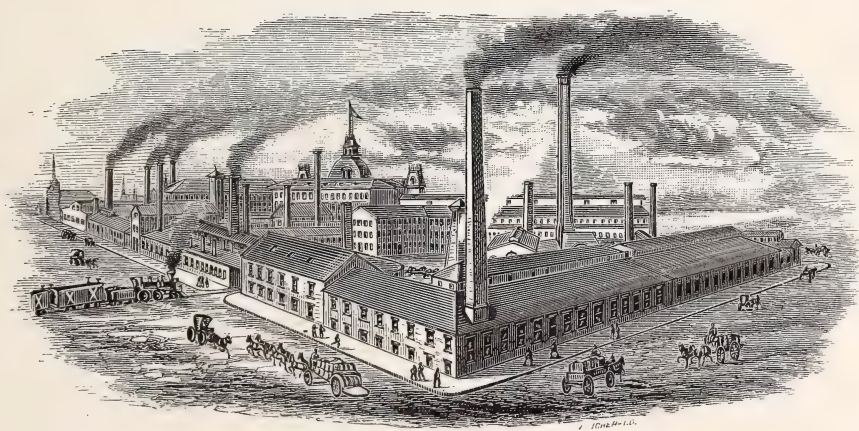
"This society will each one bear and pay their equal part of the fine and charges that may be laid on Messrs. Joshua Bigelow and Timothy Bigelow, for their refusal to be empaneled upon the Grand Jury at our next Superior Court of Assize, for the county of Worcester, if they shall be chosen into that office, and their refusal is founded upon the principle, that they cannot, consistently with good conscience and order, serve, if Peter Oliver, Esq., is present on the bench as chief justice, or judge of said court, before he is lawfully tried and acquitted from the high crimes and charges for which he now stands impeached by the honorable House of Representatives, and the major part of the grand jurors for the whole county join them in refusing to serve for the reasons aforesaid."

By what to the uninitiated would appear a remarkable coincidence, the Messrs. Bigelow were chosen, and a majority of the jurors, to the number of fifteen, joined them in offering a paper at the opening of the Court, giving





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(Rear View.)





their reasons in detail for refusing to serve. Fortunately, Judge Oliver failed to appear, and so the jury consented to serve.

At the monthly meeting of the Political Society in June, it was voted to sign a covenant not to purchase any English goods until the port of Boston was opened, and to discontinue intercourse with those declining to subscribe.

In August, it was voted, "that Nathan Perry be moderator of our next town meeting, if he should be chosen : in case he should refuse, then Josiah Pierce shall preside." The selectmen were directed forthwith to examine the town's stock of ammunition, and ascertain its quality and quantity. A committee was chosen to present to the inhabitants an obligation to be completely armed, and to enforce its execution. December 5th, Joshua Bigelow was instructed to lay before the County Congress the refusal of Gardner Chandler to sign the Solemn League and Covenant. Sept. 5, 1775, a committee, consisting of Samuel McCracken, Josiah Peirce, David Bigelow, Samuel Woodburn and Nathan Baldwin, was chosen to inspect the Tories going and coming from Lancaster or any other way.

Many of the most active and intelligent members of this patriotic league had entered the army, and the influence of the Loyalists, or "Tories" had become very much diminished. For these causes and on account of some petty dissensions in their own ranks, the society was dissolved in the spring of 1776.

At the town meeting in March, 1774, a resolution was adopted, refusing to buy, sell, or in any way to be concerned with India teas of any kind, until the act imposing such duty be repealed; and also resolving to break off all commercial intercourse with those persons, in this or any other place, who should act counter to these resolutions; and further resolving that "we have an indisputable right, at this time, and at all times, boldly to assert our rights and make known our grievances, being sensible that the freedom of speech and security of property always go together."

A protest against the resolution, signed by twenty-six Royalists, is spread upon the town records.

Joshua Bigelow, elected to the Legislature in May of this year, was instructed not to be intimidated by any acts of the crown; to resist the most distant approaches to slavery, and also any attempt to compensate the East India Company for the loss of its tea: to aim at securing a strict union of the Colonies and the formation of a general Congress; also to endeavor to prosecute the impeachment of Peter Oliver, the obnoxious judge. A most strenuous effort was made by the Royalists to defeat the passage of these instructions; but they were out-voted by the Patriots, or Whigs. The former, persistent, sent a petition, signed by forty-three freeholders, to the selectmen, asking for another meeting, to reconsider the action of the former one and to examine into the proceedings and conduct of "certain persons styling themselves the Committee of Correspondence for the town." The meeting, held June 30,

was of a very stormy nature ; but, after a long debate, a majority voted against taking any action upon the matters contained in the petition. A protest signed by fifty-two inhabitants — about one-fifth of the whole number of voters — was presented and refused. Clark Chandler, Esq., the town clerk at that time, himself one of the most loyal of all the Tories, entered a copy upon the town records ; but, in accordance with a vote of the town, passed at a meeting called for the purpose and held on the 22d of August, and by adjournment on the 24th, the offending clerk was compelled to obliterate and deface with his pen the obnoxious record : an act to which he gave the *coup-de-grace* by dipping his fingers in the ink and drawing them across the page.\* The protest has been handed down to the present time, however : for it had already been printed in the "Boston News Letter" and the "Massachusetts Gazette." The document is a sufficiently curious indication of the views of the conservative party of the time to justify its reproduction in full, as it appeared in print : —

"*Messrs. Printers* : — If you please you may give the following protestation of us a few friends of truth, peace and order, a place in your paper : for it is believed that we and many others through the Province, have too long already held our peace.

"At a meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Worcester, held there on the 20th day of June, A. D., 1774, pursuant to an application made to the Selectmen by 43 voters and freeholders of the same town, dated the 20th day of May last, therein among other things, declaring their just apprehensions of the fatal consequences that may follow the many riotous and seditious actions that have of late times been done and perpetrated in divers places within this Province ; the votes and proceedings of which meeting are by us deemed irregular and arbitrary : Wherefore we, some of us who were petitioners for the said meeting, and others, inhabitants of the town, hereunto subscribing, thinking it our indispensable duty, in these times of discord and confusion in too many of the towns within this Province, to bear testimony in the most open and unreserved manner against all riotous, disorderly and seditious practices, must therefore now declare, that it is with the deepest concern for public peace and order, that we behold so many, whom we used to esteem sober, peaceable men, so far deceived, deluded and led astray, by the artful, crafty and insidious practices of some evil-minded and ill-disposed persons, who, under the disguise of patriotism, and falsely styling themselves the friends of liberty, some of them neglecting their own proper business and occupation, in which they ought to be employed for the support of their families, spending their time in discoursing of matters they do not understand, raising and propagating falsehoods and calumnies of those men they look up to with envy, and on whose fall and ruin they wish to rise, intend to reduce all things to a state of tumult, discord and confusion. And in pursuance of those evil purposes and practices, they have imposed on the understanding of some, corrupted the principles of others, and distracted the minds of many, who under the influence of this delusion, have been tempted to act a part that may prove, and that has already proved, extremely prejudicial to the Province, and as it may be, fatal to themselves ; bringing into real danger, and

\* The thoroughness with which the work of obliteration was done may be seen by an inspection of the volume at the office of the city clerk. A reduced fac simile of one of the pages is given in the Historical Notes of Nathaniel Paine, Esq.



in many instances destroying, that liberty and property we all hold sacred, and which they vainly and impiously boast of defending at the expense of their blood and treasure.

“And, as it appears to us, that many of this town seem to be led aside by strange opinions, and are prevented coming to such prudent votes and resolutions as might be for the general good and advantage of this town in particular, agreeably to the request of the petitioners for this meeting, —

“And as the town has refused to dismiss the persons styling themselves the Committee of Correspondence for the town, and has also refused so much as to call on them to render an account of their past dark and pernicious proceedings, —

“We therefore, whose names are herunto subscribed, do each of us declare and protest, it is our firm opinion, that the Committees of Correspondence in the several towns in this Province, being creatures of modern invention, and constituted as they be, are a legal grievance, having no legal foundation, contrived by a junto to serve particular designs and purposes of their own, and that they, as they have been and are now managed in this town, are a nuisance. And we fear, it is in a great measure owing to the baneful influence of such committees, that the teas of immense value, lately belonging to the East India Company, were not long since, scandalously destroyed in Boston, and that many other enormous acts of violence and oppression have been perpetrated, whereby the lives of many honest worthy persons, have been endangered and their property destroyed.

“It is by these committees also, that papers have been lately published, and are now circulating through the Province, inviting and wickedly tempting all persons to join them, fully implying, if not expressly denouncing the destruction of all that refuse to subscribe those unlawful combinations, tending directly to sedition, civil war, and rebellion.

“These and all such enormities, we detest and abhor, and the authors of them we esteem enemies of our King and country, violators of all law and civil liberty, the malevolent disturbers of the peace of society, subverters of the established constitution, and enemies of mankind.”

The names of the signers were also printed.

At the same town meeting a counter-protest was passed; the signers of the first were declared unworthy of holding any town office, or honor, until they should make public satisfaction for their offence; the thanks of the town were given to the Committee of Correspondence; and the offending clerk was exhorted to be more circumspect in the duties of his office, that the former good opinion of him might be restored. Forty-three of the protesters, on a hint from the Committee of Correspondence, met on the evening before the first meeting and signed a recantation of the document. The names of five others (including James Putnam and Dr. William Paine) were mentioned in the counter-protest as not having given satisfaction, “that they might be known in future.” Of the remaining four, one afterwards retracted his signature, and it is probable that the other three were non-residents, and therefore superior to the people’s indignation.

The Hon. Timothy Paine (father of Dr. William) had been one of the most

highly esteemed citizens of the town up to this period. Besides other officers of trust, which he held from time to time, he was for six years clerk of courts, register of probate and register of deeds together. He received, in 1774, a commission as one of the mandamus councillors of the king, an office which, wavering between his loyalty to the sovereign and his respect for the feelings of the people, he unwillingly accepted. A committee from a large concourse of inhabitants of the county who had assembled at the call of the committee of correspondence, waited upon Mr. Paine at his residence and obtained from him a written resignation of his office as councillor. He was then compelled to go before the people and read his resignation with uncovered head. Many of the signers of the Loyalist protest were forced to pass through the same crowd, and listen to the reading of their confession of recantation. Some of the Royalists, led by this scene to fear violence at the hands of the excited people, withdrew from the town to Stone-house Hill in the south-western part of Holden, carrying arms and provisions, but after a sojourn of two or three weeks, during which they had remained unmolested, they returned to their homes.

The time had now come when the idea of armed resistance to the encroachments of the king's power began seriously to present itself to the minds of men. A company of "minute-men" was enrolled by Capt. Timothy Bigelow, a patriotic blacksmith and leading citizen; four cannon, bought by the town, were secretly taken out of Boston and brought to Worcester, and a train of artillery was organized under Capt. Edward Crafts. The justices of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, who came on the 6th of September to hold the court, were compelled to adjourn at once, and to make declaration in writing that they would not attempt to exercise their authority in opposition to the will of the people. Worcester became one of the depots of provisions and munitions of war established by the Massachusetts Committee of Safety.

We have seen that the town was wont, in its early history, to instruct its representatives as to their conduct. When Capt. Timothy Bigelow was chosen, Oct. 4, 1774, a delegate to the Provincial Congress which was to assemble at Concord, the town gave him a code of instructions, in which occurs this striking passage:—

"If all infractions of our rights, by acts of the British Parliament be not redressed, and we restored to the full enjoyment of all our privileges, contained in the charter of this province, granted by their late majesties, King William and Queen Mary *to a punctilio*, before the day of your meeting, then, and in that case, you are to consider the people of this province as absolved, on their part, from the obligation therein contained, and to all intents and purposes reduced to a state of nature: and you are to exert yourself in devising ways and means to raise from the dissolution of the old constitution, as from the ashes of the Phenix, a new form, wherein all officers shall be dependent on the suffrages of the people for their existence as such, whatever unfavorable constructions our enemies may put upon such procedure. The exigency of our public affairs leaves us no other alternative from a state of anarchy or slavery."



There is little doubt that an expedition against Worcester was contemplated by Gen. Gage, like that against Concord, to capture the military stores known to be collected here. The report of two British officers who visited the town in citizen's dress, to examine the roads thither and make topographical sketches, was found in Boston after the hasty evacuation of that town.

On the memorable 19th of April, 1775, the arrival of a messenger, riding a white horse, and crying, "To arms! to arms! the war has begun!"—the prompt ringing of the church-bells, and the discharge of cannon—summoned the citizens together. The "minute-men" paraded promptly upon the common, and after prayer by Rev. Thaddeus Maccarty, the parish clergyman, took up their line of march under Capt. Timothy Bigelow, seventy-nine men all told,—a force whom regular drill had brought to a state of discipline which received the commendations of the superior officers, who afterwards reviewed them at Cambridge, and of Gen. Washington himself. Capt. Benj. Flagg, with a company of thirty-one men, soon followed. Receiving intelligence of the retreat of the British, the two companies marched to Cambridge, where most of the men enlisted in the army which was at once organized, Capt. Bigelow becoming major in the regiment of Col. Jonathan Ward, and fifty-nine men enlisting in a company under Capt. Jonas Hubbard in the same regiment. Four commissioned officers and one private joined Col. Crafts' regiment of artillery, and seventeen others enlisted in other organizations during the year.

The Committee of Correspondence, now constituting a tribunal of almost unlimited sway, kept the Loyalists, who did not flee to Boston at the opening of the war, under careful surveillance. On the 21st of April, the committee summoned those remaining in town before them, and took their assurances that they would not leave town without permission of the selectmen. On the 8th of May the committee reported that William Campbell, who had broken his agreement, should be arrested and sent to Watertown or Cambridge, to be dealt with as Congress or the commander-in-chief should decide; also that an opportunity should be given the other Royalists, of whom nineteen were mentioned by name, to redeem their character by joining the American troops, or finding others to serve in their stead. The opportunity thus offered was not embraced, and accordingly, some two weeks later, twenty-nine persons, duly summoned by the sheriff, were disarmed and again forbidden to leave the town.

In this month (May, 1775,) fifteen British prisoners-of-war were sent to be confined in the jail at Worcester, and other instalments came during the year. Some of these, allowed liberty under parole, were permitted to work for the citizens, thus supplying the places of those who were in the patriot army. In the unfortunate expedition against Quebec, led by Col. Arnold through the wilds of Maine and Canada, Maj. Timothy Bigelow, Capt. Jonas Hubbard and twelve soldiers from Worcester took a part. Capt. Hubbard and Timothy Wesson perished from wounds received in the attack, Sergt. Silas Wesson



was killed, and Maj. Bigelow and the rest were made prisoners and held as captives until November of the following year.

In January, 1776, the town assumed, for the time, the prerogative of a State, by electing Samuel Curtis and William Young to act as justices of the peace for the preservation of order and the punishment of crime. In the same month thirty-two men were drafted to re-enforce the army investing Boston. On the 23d of May, in town meeting, it was voted unanimously that "if the Continental Congress should declare the American colonies independent of Great Britain, we will support the measure with our lives and fortunes." In June the General Court made a requisition upon the town for fifty-six men from the alarm and trainband lists, and early in July another for every twenty-fifth man upon the lists, for service in the northern departments. The bounty of the soldiers from this town was fixed at nine pounds, in addition to the allowance from the Colony.

But Worcester's red-letter day of the eighteenth century was Saturday, the 13th of July, 1776, when the messenger bearing a copy of the Declaration of Independence towards Boston stopped to bait his horse, and it was read to a hastily assembled throng by Isaiah Thomas, Esq., from the west porch of the Old South Meeting-House. It was read again, in the church, on the next day, at the close of service, and was printed, for the first time in New England, in the "Massachusetts Spy" \* of the 17th.

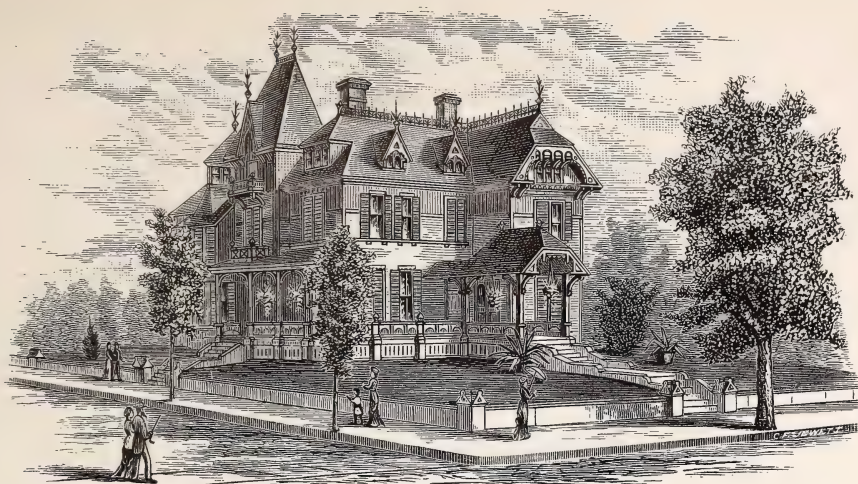
On the 22d of the month a formal celebration of the great event was held, which is thus reported by the "Spy":—

"On Monday last a number of patriotic gentlemen of this town, animated with a love of their country, and to show their approbation of the measures lately taken by the Grand Council of America, assembled on the Green, near the liberty pole, where, after having displayed the colors of the thirteen confederate colonies of America, the bells were set ringing and the drums a beating: After which, the Declaration of Independence of the United States was read to a large and respectable body, among whom were the selectmen and committee of correspondence, assembled on the occasion, who testified their approbation by repeated huzzas, firing of musketry and cannon, bonfires and other demonstrations of joy; When the arms of that tyrant in Britain, George the III., of execrable memory, which in former times decorated, but of late disgraced the court house in this town, were committed to the flames and consumed to ashes; after which, a select company of the sons of freedom, repaired to the tavern, lately known by the sign of the King's Arms, which odious signature of despotism was taken down by order of the people, which was cheerfully complied with by the innkeeper, where the following toasts were drank; and the evening spent with joy, on the commencement of the happy era. . . ."

Among the toasts were the following:—

"George rejected and liberty protected. Sore eyes to all tories, and a chestnut burr

\* A fac-simile of this number of the "Spy" is bound in with Mr. Paine's "Historical Notes." In the same number Messrs. Shepherd and Hunt inform the public that the copartnership between them and Dr. William Paine is "desolved."



RESIDENCE OF A. MACULLER, WORCESTER, MASS.



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE CROMPTON, WORCESTER, MASS.





for an eye stone. Perpetual itching, without the benefit of scratching, to the enemies of America. May the enemies of America be laid at her feet. May the freedom and independency of America endure, till the sun grows dim with age, and this earth returns to chaos. . . .

"The greatest decency and good order was observed, and at a suitable time each man returned to his respective home."

At a town meeting, held September 30, the town declined to act upon the proposition to form a State government.

In the autumn and early winter of this year, Worcester responded to frequent calls for troops. Besides those in other organizations, fifty-four men served in Capt. William Gates's company, in New York, and twenty-four in Col. Crafts' artillery regiment.

Early in 1777 Worcester answered a draft of one-seventh, and in August a draft of one-sixth of its male inhabitants above the age of sixteen. Some of these marched through Bennington towards Ticonderoga, but were ordered back to re-enforce Gen. Stark, and arriving at Bennington on the day after the battle, performed the duty of guarding the British prisoners. In August seventy-three men, including Lieut.-Col. Benjamin Flagg and Capt. David Chadwick, advanced to Hadley on the way to Albany, to resist Gen. Burgoyne, but, the danger being over, returned.

In January, 1778, the town voted unanimously in approval of the articles of Confederation of the United States. In April the State Constitution approved by the General Court was rejected, receiving but eight votes in its favor out of fifty-eight. The act banishing forever such citizens as had left the State and joined the enemy included the names of John Chandler,\* James Putnam, Rufus Chandler, William Chandler, Adam Walker and William Paine, from Worcester.

In March, 1779, £2,000 was assessed to support the war, and later in the year £5,200 was borrowed to pay bounties. A town meeting in August endorsed the action of a convention previously held at Concord to consult on measures for the relief of the people from the distress experienced from the depreciation of the currency; the exorbitant price of necessities and the distrust of credit. Resolutions were passed condemning the "regulators in the public markets, forestallors, engrossers of the produce of the country and higlers," pronouncing them "pestilential mushrooms of trade," and declaring that such persons should not be admitted to take part in any mercantile consultation.

Levi Lincoln, Joseph Allen and David Bigelow were elected delegates to

\* John Chandler, like his father and grandfather of the same name, held judicial and many fiduciary offices. He was father of seventeen children, including Rufus and William above named. He left estates, which were confiscated, valued at the very large sum of £147,659; yet, in presenting his claim to the British commission appointed to make compensation to the exiles, he returned a schedule of but £11,037 in real and personal estate, and his indirect losses at about £6,000 more; a compensation so exceptionally moderate that he received the name of "the honest refugee."

the convention for framing a State Constitution. This Constitution was ratified by the people of the State in the spring of 1779, though some of its articles were rejected by the people of Worcester. At the first election of State officers, in September, Hancock received 56 votes for governor and Bowdoin 20; for lieutenant-governor, James Warren 23 and Artemas Ward 28.

The record for the remaining years of the war is one of frequent requisitions for soldiers, blankets and supplies, of raising money for expenses and bounties. The whole number of men from the town who were in the service, including both those in the regular line and those called out for short periods of duty, is given by Lincoln as follows: 1 colonel, 2 lieutenant-colonels, 2 majors, 7 captains, 10 lieutenants, 5 ensigns, 20 sergeants and 389 privates.

The eight long years which had tried the souls of the people, and had compelled them to offer many sacrifices and to undergo countless privations, were at last ended. On the 7th of May, 1783, the return of peace was celebrated by ringing the church bells and a salute of thirteen guns at sunrise and sunset, a dinner at the Sun Tavern, at which thirteen "sentimental toasts" were given, each accompanied by a discharge of cannon; and a ball in the evening, "where the ladies made a brilliant appearance, and heartily joined their expressions of joy."

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## CHAPTER VIII.

AFTER THE REVOLUTION — SHAYS' INSURRECTION — WASHINGTON'S VISIT IN 1789 — THE WORCESTER MILITARY — WAR OF 1812 — VISIT OF LAFAYETTE — THE WAR WITH MEXICO.

DURING the great struggle of the Revolution the mass of the people had stood together in support of the common cause; but the heavy burdens which that struggle had imposed, the relaxation of manners and morals, the decay of trade and manufactures, and the fearful depreciation of "the dollar of our fathers" caused a restlessness and distress which gave rise to popular clamor and insurrection. The county conventions, held in 1782, 1784 and 1786, to give voice to the complaints of the disaffected, and the armed uprising called "Shays' Rebellion" from the name of its leader, have been treated in another part of this work.\* The people of this town gave but little support to these manifestations; and when the insurgents gathered to prevent the assembling of the courts in December, 1786, the two Worcester companies of militia, numbering one hundred and seventy men, under Capt. Joel Howe, turned out, and marching down Main Street from the Old South to the Hancock Arms Tavern in Lincoln Street, dislodged the insurgent force which had formed across the street, near the court-house. In January an army of four thousand

\* Vol. I., page 99, *et seq.*

four hundred men was raised by the State to crush the rebellion. For this force Worcester furnished twenty-seven men in Capt. Joel Howe's company, forty-three in Capt. Wm. Treadwell's company of artillery, nineteen under Capt. Phineas Jones, and seven dragoons. Only two or three of all our townsmen joined the forces of Shays.

When President Washington passed through the town in 1789, on his way to Boston,\* he was received here with the same deserved testimonials of gratitude and respect which marked every stage of his journey. The account published in the "Spy" says:—

"Information being received on Thursday evening [October 22], that his Highness would be in town the next morning, a number of respectable citizens, about forty, paraded before sunrise, on horseback, and went as far as Leicester line to welcome him, and escorted him into town. The Worcester company of artillery, commanded by Maj. Treadwell, were already assembled; on notice being given that his Highness was approaching, five cannon were fired, for the five New England States; three for the three in the union; one for Vermont, which will speedily be admitted; and one as a call to Rhode Island to be ready before it be too late. When the President General arrived in sight of the meeting-house, eleven cannon were fired; he viewed with attention the artillery company as he passed, and expressed to the inhabitants his sense of the honor done him. He stopped at the United States Arms, and breakfasted, and then proceeded on his journey. To gratify the inhabitants, he politely passed through the town on horseback, dressed in a brown suit, and pleasure glowed in every countenance; eleven cannon were again fired. The gentlemen of the town escorted him a few miles, when they took their leave."

During the preparations for national defence from an anticipated attack by the French in 1798, a company of sixty, commanded by Capt. Thomas Chandler, and called the Worcester Volunteer Cadet Infantry, was raised, which was held ready to march on the reception of orders. The local company of artillery joined the forces collected in the south part of the county, but fortunately neither corps was called into battle. The Worcester Light Infantry (organized in 1804 and still flourishing) volunteered their services in 1807 and again in 1808, to march at a moment's warning, to chastise and repel the British should they invade the country. The company of artillery under Capt. Curtis, the infantry companies commanded by Capts. Harrington and Johnson, and the cavalry, Capt. Goulding, made similar offers.

For the war of 1812 several citizens of the town enlisted and served in the army and navy. The Light Infantry, commanded by Capt. John W. Lincoln

\* Gen. Washington left Philadelphia June 21, 1775, to assume command of the American army at Cambridge. At New York he received news of the battle at Bunker Hill and pressed on with speed. At Brookfield he was met by a company of horsemen from Worcester, commanded by Capt. James Chadwick, who escorted him hither, where he made a brief halt. This was July 1, 1775. Mrs. Washington, in her own conveyance, a coach and four, with black postillions in scarlet and white liveries, passed through town early in December of the same year, going to join her husband in his winter quarters.



(afterwards high sheriff) and the Worcester Artillery, Capt. Samuel Graves, marched to South Boston Sept. 14, 1814, where they remained in camp for the defence of the coast until the close of the following month.

The visit of Gen. Lafayette to Worcester, Sept. 3, 1824, was the occasion of an enthusiastic demonstration of popular favor. The arrangements were in charge of a committee of citizens whose chairman was Judge Levi Lincoln (afterwards governor), who entertained the General at his own house. He was met at West Boylston by a company of cavalry under Capt. James Estabrook, and at the town line by the committee of arrangements. At Clark's tavern, a mile or two from the village, a regiment of light infantry, under Lieut. Col. Ward, was added to the escort. At the entrance to Dr. William Paine's estate, on Lincoln Street, an arch of flags was erected over the street; another over Court Hill, decorated by the ladies of the town. The children of the public schools were arranged on each side of Main Street, and threw branches of laurel before the carriage of Lafayette. Another arch of flags was erected on Main Street, near the Worcester Bank. On the arrival of the procession at Judge Lincoln's house, the judge, in behalf of the committee of arrangements, delivered an address of welcome, to which the General replied.

The war with Mexico, in 1845-7, was generally unpopular in the northern States. It is not known that any Worcester men went out in the Massachusetts regiment of volunteers commanded by Caleb Cushing. The remnant of the regiment passed through the city on their return, on a very hot day in the summer of 1847, and many of our citizens gathered at the station to gaze upon and to commiserate their sorry plight.

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## CHAPTER IX.\*

THE GREAT REBELLION — MOVEMENTS IN WORCESTER — THE SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS — RECEPTION OF RETURNED REGIMENTS — THE WAR YEARS AT HOME — RELIEF COMMITTEES — LADIES' WORK — DRAFT OF RECRUITS — UNION LEAGUE — HOSPITAL ENTERPRISE — NEWS OF DEATH OF LINCOLN — CELEBRATION, JULY 4, 1865 — THE SOLDIERS' MONUMENT DEDICATED.

IN a republic every intelligent man is a patriot. Where the most widespread intelligence prevails, the deepest interest is taken in the affairs of state. As Worcester rallied to protect the Colonies against the French and Indian invasions, and again to throw off the yoke of the mother country, when it had become too galling to be borne, so she rallied again, in these latter days, to crush the gigantic rebellion which arose in the South.

Although the outbreak of hostilities, — the attack on Fort Sumter April 12,

\* Much of the information in this chapter was derived from Rev. A. P. Marvin's "Worcester in the Rebellion."

1861, — came upon the people of the North like a thunder-clap, the rebellion itself was not wholly unexpected. The two local companies of militia — the City Guards, Co. A of the Third Battalion of Rifles, and the Worcester Light Infantry, Co. B of the Third Battalion of Infantry — had been for some time drilling and recruiting their ranks. On the evening of the sixteenth a crowded meeting of citizens, the first of a series of spirited public gatherings which took place during the war, was held at the city hall, the mayor, Hon. Isaac Davis, presiding. Spirited and patriotic addresses were made by men of both political parties, and it was voted to ask the city council to appropriate \$4,000 in aid of the families of such troops as should be called into the service, and to provide uniforms and supplies for such as should need them. On the same evening the Light Infantry received orders, attaching them as a flank company to the Sixth Regiment, and directing them to proceed at once to Boston. They left on the next forenoon, under command of Harrison W. Pratt. George W. Prouty was 1st Lieut; J. Waldo Denny, acting 2d Lieut.; Thomas S. Washburn, John A. Lovell, J. Stewart Brown, Charles H. Stratton and James A. Taylor, Sergts.; and Joel H. Prouty, B. P. Stowell, Edward S. Stone and Wm. H. Hobbs, Corpls. There were eighty-five privates. The regiment left Boston on the 17th, passing through Worcester in the evening, and greeted at every station with the firing of cannon, the ringing of church bells, illuminations and cheers. On Friday, the 19th, it marched through Baltimore, where it met with a bloody reception from the rowdy element of that city, and was the first armed regiment to reach the capital. There they were quartered in the Senate Chamber, which was their headquarters for about two weeks, when they went into camp at Elk Ridge Landing, near the Relay House, occupying the heights which command the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and its Washington branch. On the 13th of May they were transferred to Federal Hill, in Baltimore; but the Light Infantry were subsequently assigned to special duty at the Relay House again. On the 4th of July the regiment received a handsome silk banner from "the loyal citizens of Baltimore." During their service they were constantly engaged in important duty, keeping open the line of communication with the capital, seizing contraband goods and keeping down the rebel element. On the 29th of July, eight days after their term of service had expired, the regiment broke camp and started for Massachusetts. The Infantry went to Boston, where they were mustered out, and thence to Lowell, the headquarters of the regiment, and reached Worcester late on the night of the 2d of August. The next morning they were treated to a generous breakfast at Horticultural Hall, after which they were reviewed upon the common by Mayor Davis and ex-Gov. Lincoln, and, after giving an exhibition skirmish-drill, were dismissed to their homes.

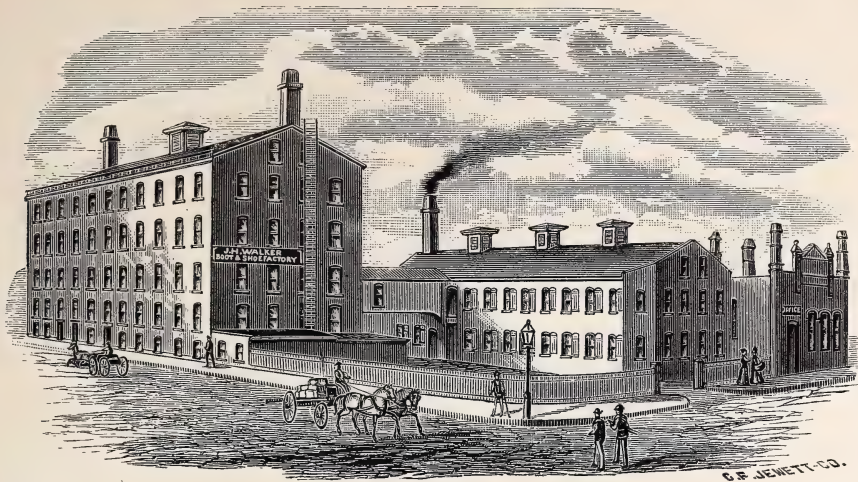
The 3d Battalion of Rifles elected Charles Devens, Jr., as their major on the evening of April 15. The Emmett Guards were a military association of citizens of Irish parentage or nativity, and on the 18th they received a charter

constituting them a part of the regular militia, as Co. C of the 3d Battalion. The battalion now comprised three full companies, with Co. B of Holden; and a company from Boston, under Capt. Dodd, was added as Co. D. Its officers were: Major, Charles Devens, Jr.; Adjutant, John M. Goodhue; Quartermaster, James E. Estabrook; Surgeon, Oramel Martin; Quartermaster-Sergt., George T. White; Sergeant-Major, Nathaniel S. Liscomb. Officers of Co. A: Capt., A. B. R. Sprague; Lieuts., Josiah Pickett, George C. Joslin, Orson Moulton, E. A. Harkness; Sergts., Elbridge G. Watkins, Walter S. Bugbee, George A. Johnson, Charles A. Ward; Corpls., Jas. M. Hervey, Horace W. Poole, Calvin N. Harrington, George Burr; Musicians, Wm. H. Heywood, Jas. Stewart. Edward Devens, of Worcester, went as 3d Lieut. of Co. B, and Nathan S. Coburn as Sergt. Officers of Co. C: Capt., Michael McConville; Lieuts., Michael O'Driscoll, M. J. McCafferty, Thomas O'Neill, Morris Melaven; Sergts., William Daley, Patrick Curran, Patrick Hayes, Martin Hayes; Corpls., Nicholas Powers, Thos. Finn, Jas. Doherty, J. J. O'Gorman. Ten privates in Co. B were from Worcester; Co. A had 63 privates, and Co. C 64.

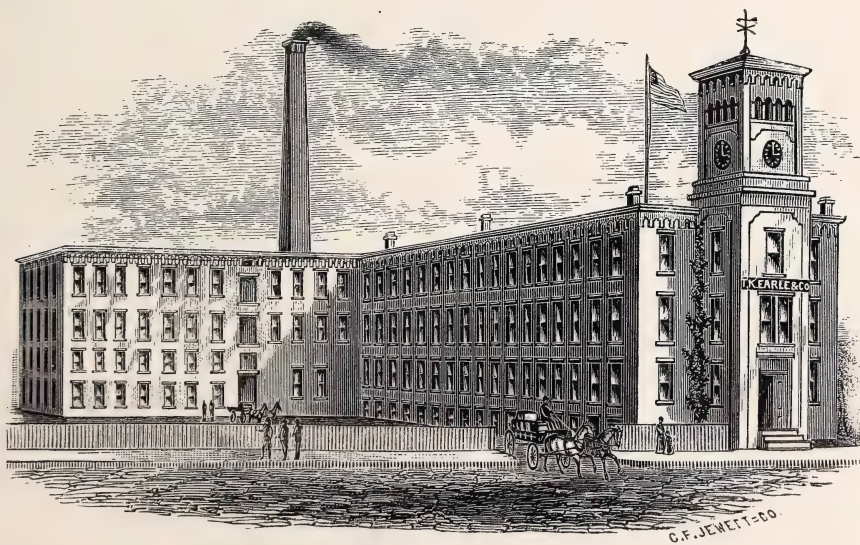
The 3d Battalion followed close upon the Light Infantry. On the afternoon of Saturday, April 20, escorted by the past members of the City Guards and Light Infantry, they marched to Mechanics' Hall, where Mayor Davis bade them God-speed, the Rev. Dr. Alonzo Hill offered a prayer, and Major Devens made an appropriate address. The cars bore them speedily to New York, where on the following evening they embarked on the steamer "Ariel," which took them to Annapolis, where they did guard-duty over the grounds of the Naval School. On the second of May they went by water to Fort McHenry, in Baltimore harbor, which was their headquarters until July 30. During their stay they were engaged in fatigue duty and on special expeditions of importance, and, like the Sixth Regiment, were all the time, by their presence, keeping down any uprising of the rebels, and maintaining open communication between the capital and the North. The battalion reached Worcester on the morning of Aug. 2, having overstaid its time by special request of Gen. Dix. Major Devens had left them on the 15th of July, to take command of the 15th Regt., and the battalion came home under command of Capt. Sprague. They were received with hearty enthusiasm. A military escort, consisting of the veteran members of the City Guards, Light Infantry and Emmett Guards, and several companies of the 15th and 21st Regts., which were forming here, the whole commanded by Lieut. Col. Ward, of the 15th, led them to the City Hall for breakfast. A street parade followed, and then the battalion, drawn up on the common, was welcomed home by Mayor Davis, in behalf of the people. Acting-Major Sprague made a fitting response, and read a farewell letter from the late commander, who was prevented by other duty from being present. The battalion was mustered out of service on the following day.

Large numbers of the "three months' men" enlisted again, some of them serving until the close of the war.





J. H. & G. M. WALKER'S FACTORY, WORCESTER, MASS.



MANUFACTORY OF T. K. EARLE & CO., WORCESTER, MASS.



A camp of instruction was laid out early in June, 1861, upon the Brooks farm at South Worcester, under direction of Brig. Gen. George H. Ward, of the State Militia. It was called Camp Scott, in honor of the general commanding the army of the United States.

The 15th Regt. of Massachusetts Volunteers (enlisted "for three years or for the war") took possession of Camp Scott on the 28th of June. Gov. Andrew and staff visited the camp (which continued in charge of Gen. Ward) on the 12th of July, and the oath of allegiance was administered to the regiment. On the 26th Major Devens was duly qualified as Colonel, Gen. Ward as Lieut. Colonel, and Capt. John W. Kimball as Major. On the 7th of August the ladies of the city, by the hands of Hon. George F. Hoar, gave the regiment a flag. The regiment, numbering 1,046 men, left the city on the following day, by way of Norwich, for the seat of war. Besides the colonel and lieutenant-colonel, the following officers were from Worcester: Quartermaster, Church Howe; Surgeon, Joseph N. Bates; Assistant-Surgeon, S. Foster Haven, Jr.; Quartermaster-Sergeant, Wm. R. Steele; Band-Master, N. P. Goddard; Hospital Steward, Henry Deering. Of the line, Co. D from Worcester was commanded by John M. Studley, with Edwin P. Woodward and John Wm. Grout as Lieutenants. Capt. George C. Joslin, of Worcester, commanded Co. I of Webster, and Amos Bartlett was 2d Lieut. The regiment reached Washington on the 10th of August, and camped for two weeks at Meridian Hill. They then moved to the vicinity of Poolsville, Md., where they were occupied in picketing the Potomac River, until the disastrous battle of Ball's Bluff, which occurred on Monday, Oct. 21st.

In this engagement the gallant Fifteenth took six hundred and twenty-five men into battle, and came out with only three hundred and eleven left fit for duty. Of the Worcester men, Lieut. Grout was killed, Lieut. Col. Ward was wounded in the leg, requiring amputation, and Capt. Studley was taken prisoner. The regiment remained at Poolsville, after the battle, until the 21st of February, 1862. After spending a month at Harper's Ferry and in the Shenandoah Valley, they were sent to Washington, from whence they went to Hampton, Va., and were soon after engaged in the siege of Yorktown, being one of the first regiments to enter the fortifications. During the siege, Col. Devens took his leave, having been promoted to be brigadier-general. The regiment took a conspicuous part in the battle of Fair Oaks, May 31, losing five killed and seven wounded. Returning in August to the Potomac Valley, it was in the bloody battle of Antietam, into which it entered with six hundred and six men, and out of which it came with but two hundred and sixty-three. Among those who received their death-wounds in this engagement was Lieut. Thomas J. Spurr. The regiment spent the winter at Falmouth, Va., and was engaged in the battle of Fredericksburg, in which their beloved surgeon, S. Foster Haven, Jr., fell. It bore a conspicuous part in the great battle of Gettysburg, in the first week of July, 1863. At the last-named place it went into



the fight with eighteen officers and two hundred and twenty-one enlisted men, and during the three days' action, lost three officers killed and eight wounded, and nineteen enlisted men killed and eighty-five wounded. The brave Col. Ward, who had resumed command five months before, and was now acting brigadier-general, lost his life in this battle. The remnant of the regiment followed the retreating rebels into Virginia, and spent the remainder of the year in marches, skirmishes, and picket duty. One hundred and fifteen drafted recruits joined the ranks in August. The regiment went into winter quarters in December, 1863, near Stevensburg, Va. By the addition of raw recruits during the winter and spring, and the re-enlistment of old members, the strength of the Fifteenth was brought up to about three hundred officers and men in May, 1864. These went into the battles of the Wilderness, in which the regiment lost about one-half of its number, either killed or wounded. June 22, the regiment, numbering five officers and about seventy men, met the enemy before Petersburg, and four officers and sixty-five men were taken prisoners. The term of the regiment as a body had expired. One company, which had a few weeks to serve, and those who had re-enlisted, were transferred to the Twentieth Regiment. The remainder returned to Worcester, where they arrived July 21, and on the following day were greeted with a most hearty reception, in which Gov. Andrew and his staff, the Independent Corps of Cadets, the City Government, the Fire Department, the State Guard and other organizations took part.

The camp of the Twenty-First Regiment was formed on the grounds of the Agricultural Society, July 19, 1861, and was placed in charge of Major Gen. Augustus Morse, of the State militia, who was appointed colonel of the regiment. "In honor of the President of the United States, the distinguished historical position of the name of Lincoln, and especially in honor of our venerable patriot and worthy fellow-citizen, ex-Governor Lincoln," the camp was designated as Camp Lincoln. Five weeks later, Aug. 23, a beautiful flag, the gift of Worcester ladies, was entrusted to the regiment by Hon. Alexander H. Bullock, in a stirring speech. George F. Thompson of Worcester, was quartermaster of the regiment, and W. Henry Valentine, segeant-major. Company F was the only Worcester company. Its officers were, B. Frank Rogers, captain, and Charles K. Stoddard and Samuel O. Laforrest, lieutenants. Thomas S. Washburn was captain of company "K." The regiment reached Baltimore Aug. 25, and Annapolis on the 29th. Jan. 6, 1862, it embarked upon the Burnside expedition to North Carolina, and bore a brilliant part in the battle of Roanoke Island, where its loss in killed and wounded was fifty-seven. It lost the same number at Newbern, on the 14th of March. At Camden, in April, it lost one man killed and fourteen wounded. In August it was with the Ninth Army Corps on the Rapidan. It took part in the second battle of Bull Run, and at Chantilly met with a very heavy loss. At South Mountain, at Antietam and at Fredericksburg it fought with credit

and with very heavy loss. At the end of the year it went into camp at Falmouth, Va., having lost one hundred and thirty men by death, besides those who had been discharged for wounds or disability, or who had been taken prisoners. The year 1863 was spent in Kentucky and Tennessee, in marching, watching, starving and fighting. Half-barefooted, half-clothed and half-starved, for much of the time, they upheld the fame of their State by their bravery and good discipline. "In the woods of Tennessee (says the report of the Adjutant-General of Massachusetts), on the 29th of December, the proposal was made to the regiment to re-enlist for a new term of three years, and in thirty-six hours all but twenty-four had re-enlisted." Furloughed in January, 1864, the regiment returned to Worcester, where it had a brilliant reception Feb. 1. It returned to Annapolis to join the Ninth Corps, and from that time it experienced heavy fighting in the Wilderness, at Spottsylvania and at Petersburg. On the 18th of August it was ordered that the re-enlisted members of the regiment should be consolidated with the Thirty-Sixth, and the rest returned home. Its total losses had been eleven commissioned officers and one hundred and twenty men killed, twenty-four officers and three hundred and eighty-three men wounded, and seventy-eight missing.

The Twenty-Fifth regiment was emphatically a Worcester County organization. Seven companies were from Worcester, and one each from Milford, Fitchburg and Templeton. It was organized at Camp Lincoln in September and October, and left for the field Oct. 31. Many members of the Light Infantry and the Third Battalion bore commissions, or marched in the ranks of this regiment. Edwin Upton of Fitchburg was colonel, and the field, staff and line officers from Worcester were: Augustus B. R. Sprague, lieut.-colonel; M. J. McCafferty, major; Elijah A. Harkness, adjutant; J. Marcus Rice, surgeon; Horace James, chaplain; Charles H. Davis, sergeant-major; E. G. Watkins, commissary-sergeant; Samuel Flagg, hospital-steward; captains, Josiah Pickett, A; Cornelius G. Atwood, C; Albert H. Foster, D; Thomas O'Neill, E; Louis Wageley, G; Orson Moulton, H; J. Waldo Denny, K; lieutenants, Francis E. Goodwin and Merritt B. Bessey, A; James Tucker and Merrick F. Prouty, C; Geo. S. Campbell and Geo. H. Spaulding, D; Wm Daley and Henry McConville, E; Henry W. Richter and Fred A. Wiegand, G; David M. Woodward and Nathaniel H. Foster, H; Samuel Harrington and James M. Drennan, K. Company E was made up of Irish citizens, and company G, of Germans. Many of the officers received gifts of horses and equipments from their friends and associates. A flag was given to the regiment by the ladies of Worcester, through William S. Davis, Esq. The regiment reached Annapolis Nov. 3, and on Jan. 7, 1862, embarked with the Burnside expedition for North Carolina, and bore a prominent part in the battle of Roanoke Island, where its loss was six killed and forty-two wounded. At Newbern the regiment was in the front, and some rebel flags, captured by company E, were sent back to Worcester by Major McCafferty (who was



honorably discharged), and given to the Public Library. The loss of men in this engagement was miraculously small, being but four killed and sixteen wounded. During the season, Lieut. Col. Sprague was promoted to be colonel of the Fifty-First, and Col. Upton resigned on account of his health, promoting Major Pickett to the office of colonel. Various expeditions and skirmishes occupied the time until the winter, which was passed at Newbern. The summer of 1863 saw them similarly occupied, always brave and always a credit to their State and their homes. Dec. 14, the regiment, which had gone to Fortress Monroe six weeks before, to join a projected but abandoned movement, went into camp at Newport News. While there two-thirds of the regiment re-enlisted, and were allowed to go home on furlough. Here they received a generous welcome.

The remainder took part in Gen. Butler's unsuccessful expedition against Richmond and returned to Newport News, where they were joined in the last week of March (1864) by their comrades returned from furlough. In April, the regiment was sent to North Carolina, but returned at once to Gettys' Station, Va., and was attached to Hackman's brigade. An engagement at Port Walthall Station, in which the regiment lost 3 killed and 14 wounded, was followed by the battle of Arrowfield Church, in which the loss was 1 officer and 11 men killed and 2 officers and 47 men wounded. In this action the 23d, 25th and 27th Massachusetts regiments were pitted against the 23d, 25th and 27th regiments of South Carolina, and whipped them handsomely. A few days later, at Drury's Bluff, a long and spirited contest took place, in which the regiment lost 11 killed, 1 officer and 52 men wounded, and 73 missing. At Cold Harbor the regiment had 4 officers and 23 men killed, 11 officers and 128 men wounded, and 2 officers and 47 men missing. Col. Pickett and Major Atwood were wounded, Lieut. Col. Moulton was taken prisoner, and adjutant Henry McConville was wounded mortally. The brave Capt. O'Neill fell, asking, as he died, to have "his face turned towards the enemy." At Point of Rocks, Co. A, under command of Orderly Sergeant Samuel H. Putnam, captured two 12-pound Napoleon guns with caissons. One man was killed in the regiment, and 1 officer and 17 men were wounded. During the next five weeks the regiment was constantly under fire, and suffered heavy loss. But the 10th of September saw the remnant of the regiment back at Newbern, and on the 20th of October, the portion whose term of service had expired, was mustered out of service at Worcester. The remainder were consolidated into a battalion of four companies under Capt. James Tucker, which was engaged in picket duty and active service in North Carolina, until July 13, 1865, when it was ordered home. "Its colors were never yielded to the enemy."

The Thirty-Fourth Regiment\* was authorized by general orders dated May 29, 1862. June 3, "Camp Wool" was opened on the Fair Grounds by Lieut.

\* See History of the Thirty-Fourth Regiment, by Wm. S. Lincoln.



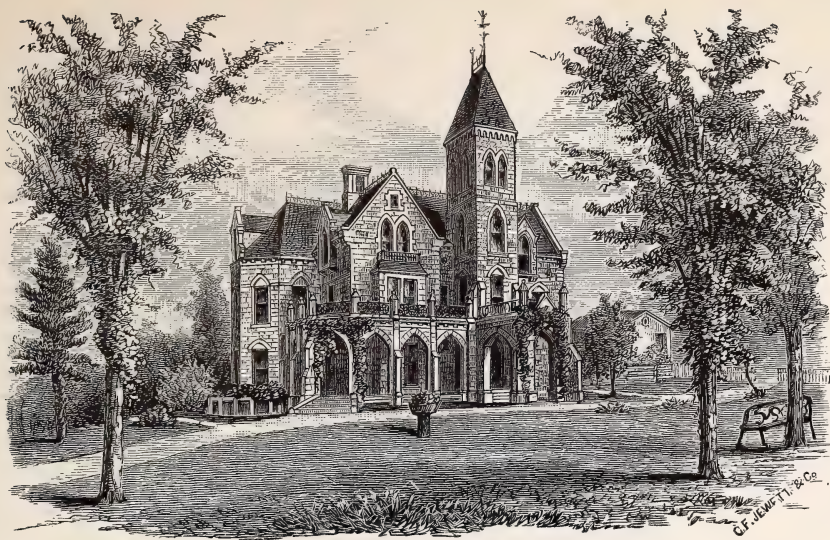
Col. William S. Lincoln. July 11, a flag was given the regiment by the ladies of the city, in a speech by Col. Alexander H. Bullock. On the 15th of August the regiment, 1,015 strong, commanded by Col. George D. Wells of Greenfield, left the city. Wm. S. Lincoln was lieutenant-colonel; Harrison W. Pratt, major; and Samuel F. Woods, adjutant. William B. Bacon, Dexter F. Parker and Alexis C. Soley were among the captains; John A. Lovell and Albert C. Walker, first lieutenants, and Levi Lincoln, Jr., Henry Bacon and John W. Stiles, second lieutenants. The regiment moved first to Alexandria, and spent the remainder of the year in garrison and picket duty in front of Washington. From May 2, 1863, to June 2, it was on duty at Upton Hill. From that time to July 9 it was in Washington, and was then ordered to Harper's Ferry. It was among the first troops to enter the town, and on the 18th of October attacked the force of Gen. Imboden near Berrysville, capturing twenty-one prisoners and killing and wounding sixty-nine of the enemy. At Newmarket, May 14 and 15, 1864, out of five hundred in action, one officer and twenty-seven men were killed, and the total loss was two hundred and twenty-one. Acting Col. Lincoln was wounded in the shoulder and fell into the enemy's hands. Capt. Wm. B. Bacon was killed. At Piedmont the loss was fifteen killed and ninety-two wounded; at Lynchburg, five killed and one officer and forty-one men wounded. The year shows a record of forced marches, skirmishes, short rations and hardships. At Winchester, out of three hundred men engaged, one officer and eight men were killed and six officers and ninety-four men wounded; at Fisher's Hill, three days later, the loss was nineteen wounded. Maj. Harrison W. Pratt was mortally wounded by the accidental discharge of a musket on the night following the splendid victory of Winchester. The two battles of Cedar Creek followed, in each of which the regiment fought hard and lost heavily. In the second battle it was the only regiment which preserved its formation entire. In December they were transferred to the Army of the James. The opening of early spring saw them occupied in the advance upon Richmond; April 2, they took part in the brilliant capture of Battery Gregg in front of Petersburg, losing four killed and thirty-six wounded. The regiment entered Richmond April 25, and the original members were mustered out on June 16. The remainder were transferred to the 24th regiment.

The Thirty-Sixth Regiment, commanded by Col. Henry Bowman, left Worcester Sept. 3, 1862. Arthur A. Goodell and S. Henry Bailey went as captains; Francis B. Rice, as quartermaster; Joseph W. Gird, Edwin A. Morse and Edward T. Raymond, as first lieutenants; Julius M. Tucker and Henry W. Daniels, second lieutenants. The regiment went from Boston to Washington by steamer and joined McClellan's army in Western Maryland. Following the fortunes of that army through the year, it saw its first battle at Fredericksburg December 12, and soon after went into winter quarters at Falmouth, Va. February 10, it left for Newport News, and six weeks later

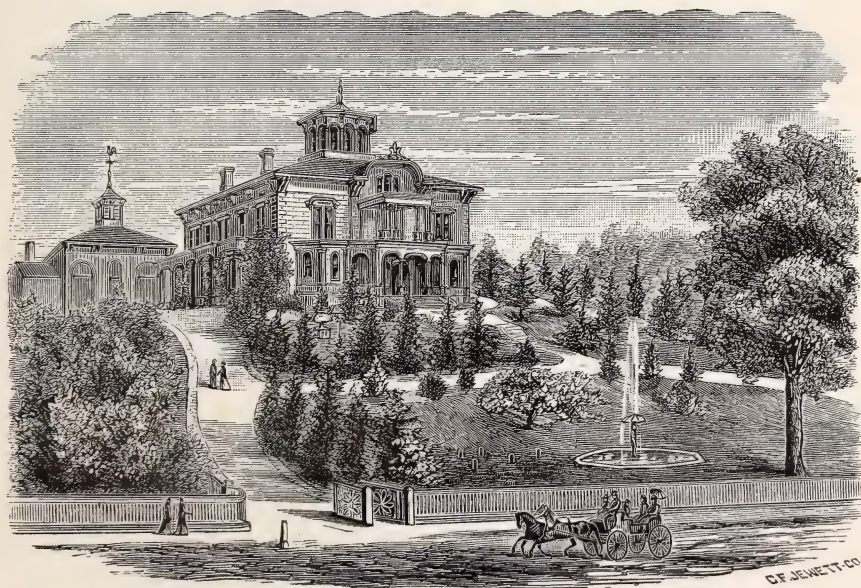
was ordered to the West in Gen. Burnside's department. A most laborious campaign followed, worse than would have been half a dozen battles in a moderate campaign. The report at the close of 1863 showed that the regiment had marched 1,013 miles and been transported 4,328; that only eighteen officers and one hundred and ninety-two enlisted men were left fit for duty; that since they left home one officer and seven men had been killed or had died of wounds, three officers and seventy-nine men had died of disease, twelve officers and one hundred and thirty men had been discharged, twenty-two transferred, thirty-three wounded in action, and eighteen taken prisoners. Winter brought no rest and no alleviation of the hard fortune of this marching, fighting regiment. March 21, 1864, they began a march of one hundred and ninety-eight miles over the Cumberland Mountains from Knoxville, Tenn., to Nicholasville, Ky., from which place the cars bore them to Annapolis. Here they were treated to the luxuries of good food and new clothing. But only seventeen days rest was vouchsafed to them, when they were ordered into Virginia. At the battle of the Wilderness, at Spottsylvania Court-House, Bethesda Church, Petersburg, Poplar Grove Church, and in other lesser engagements, the regiment bore a conspicuous part. The losses for the year were: four officers and fifty-one men killed, six officers and two hundred men wounded, sixteen missing. The regiment was at Fort Rice near Petersburg during the winter of 1864-5, and in the attack on the enemy's works, April 2, lost one man killed and four wounded. Then it resumed its old programme, — incessant marching and skirmishing. It was mustered out at Alexandria June 8, and was ordered to Readville, Mass., to receive its pay. A hearty reception was given to the regiment by the city June 13, and on the 21st it was paid off in camp at Readville and dismissed.

The Fifty-First Regiment was the first Worcester County regiment of nine months' troops. It was recruited at Camp Wool, which was in charge of Col. George H. Ward. Of the field and staff officers Worcester furnished Col. A. B. R. Sprague, Lieut. Col. John M. Studley, Maj. Elijah A. Harkness, Adjutant J. Stewart Brown, and Quartermaster Benj. D. Dwinell; of the line, Capts. John S. Baldwin, Edwin A. Wood, Horace Hobbs, Wm. F. Wheeler, George W. Prouty; Lieuts. John B. Goodell, Charles H. Peck, Luther H. Bigelow, Samuel S. Eddy, Calvin N. Harrington, and Joel H. Prouty. The regiment left for Boston Nov. 24, 1862, and embarked for Newbern, N. C., where it reported to Gen. Foster. Its services in the first six weeks were recognized in a general order authorizing the names Kingston, Whitehall and Goldsborough to be inscribed on its colors. In the early months of 1863 the disease cerebro-spinal meningitis raged in the ranks, carrying off about twenty men. After hard service in North Carolina the regiment was ordered to Cumberland, Va., at the end of June. Reporting to Gen. Dix at the White House, that officer, learning that its term of service had nearly expired, directed it to return to Fortress Monroe. Arriving at the fortress





RESIDENCE OF T. K. EARLE, WORCESTER, MASS.



RESIDENCE OF LORING COES, WORCESTER, MASS.





June 23, Col. Sprague offered his services to support the Army of the Potomac, and proceeded to Baltimore, where heavy fatigue and guard duties awaited the men. Ten days later they were on Maryland Heights, and July 12 started on an all-night march for Boonesborough to assist in cutting off Gen. Lee's retreat from Gettysburg. As the rebels had made good their retreat and the time of service of the regiment had passed, it was ordered home, where it arrived July 21, 1863, with eight hundred men out of nine hundred and thirty-eight who were mustered in. A hearty reception and a collation were given to the heroes.

The Fifty-Seventh Regiment, a three years' organization, was raised in the spring of 1864. It was commanded by Col. Wm. F. Bartlett of Pittsfield. Among the officers who served with the regiment were Capts. Julius M. Tucker, Joseph W. Gird, John L. Goodwin, Henry C. Ward, George E. Barton; Lieuts. E. Dexter Cheney, Albert M. Murdock, Henry M. Ide, Edward I. Coe and Charles H. Pinkham. The regiment left the State in April, 1864, and fought its way from the Wilderness to Hatcher's Run, bearing a part in nearly every battle which occurred between those two points. From Jan. 1, 1865, to March 25, the regiment was for most of the time in the lines before Petersburg. From this time to the surrender of Lee the regiment was marching and fighting. It was on provost duty near Tenallytown, Md., until August, and was discharged at Readville August 9.

The Second Regiment of Heavy Artillery included Lieut. Col. A. B. R. Sprague; First Lieuts. Stephen E. Greene, Benj. D. Dwinell, Henry W. Reed and Robert B. Sinclair; Second Lieuts. George M. Rice, Jr., and Myron S. Sanford, and ninety-four men from Worcester. The regiment left the State by detachments between September, 1863, and January, 1864, and served in North Carolina and at Fortress Monroe until September, 1865.

The Fourth Heavy Artillery contained about two hundred and thirteen men from Worcester. Capt. J. Orlando Bemis, First Lieut. Charles N. Hair, and Second Lieuts. Augustus Stone and Charles H. Heywood were among the officers.

In the First Heavy Artillery Worcester was represented by sixty-five men; in the Second Cavalry, fifty-six, including Second Lieut. Edward W. Wellington; in the Fourth Cavalry about twenty-four, including First Lieut. Warren A. Fuller; in the Fifth Cavalry (colored), twenty-five; in the Twenty-eighth Infantry, thirty men, with Surgeon Peter E. Hubon, Capt. James O'Keefe, Capt. John Treanor, and Lieuts. Nicholas J. Barrett, James E. Estabrook, and George S. Campbell; in the Forty-Second Regiment about thirty, with Capt. Frederick G. Stiles, Capt. Edward R. Washburn, and First Lieuts. Augustus Ford and Luther Capron, Jr.; in the Fiftieth about seventy, with Capt. Nicholas Powers and Lieuts. J. J. O'Gorman and Martin Hayes.

Rev. Joseph C. Cromaek, of the Laurel Street Methodist Church, was chaplain of the 20th Regiment, and Rev. H. L. Wayland of the Third Baptist

Church, of the 7th Connecticut; George W. Baldwin was adjutant of the 15th Regiment and assistant adjutant general; Charles H. Davis was commissary of subsistence with the rank of brevet major; Horace Mecorney was assistant surgeon of the 25th Regiment; George F. Allen was captain in the U. S. colored troops; and George M. Woodward captain in the 55th Regiment. Alanson H. Ward was captain in the 61st Regiment, and Benjamin A. Ball in the 3d Heavy Artillery.

Nearly every Massachusetts regiment or battalion included Worcester men. Many enlisted or received commissions in the regiments of other States. In the navy were Lieut-Commander, Bancroft Gherardi; acting Masters, John C. Dutch and George D. Upham; Master's Mate, George M. Rice, Jr.; midshipman, Charles P. Blake; paymaster, Wm. H. Hathorn; carpenter's mate, Cornelius D. Reed, and perhaps others.

Promotions were rapid during the war, especially in those regiments which were most exposed to loss. The materials for a complete list of those who bore commissions, are wanting. The roll of honor, printed on another page, contains the names of some who rose from the ranks to the line, and of some who were commissioned in other States. It is not the place here for their eulogy. Their lives and actions

"Smell sweet and blossom in the dust."

Attention must now be given to the manner in which the years of the war passed at home.

During the four long years of war the people of Worcester were constant in good works. The pulpit, the press, and eloquent men uttered words of cheer for the departing, of welcome for the returning, and of eulogy for the dead. The ladies were ever active. They early organized a Soldiers' Relief Committee, which did a great work in sending supplies, which were much needed, to different points, and in assisting the Sanitary Commission and the Christian Commission with material aid. Levees, fairs and private theatricals were held for the same purpose. The "Soldiers' Rest" was opened near the Central Railroad Station, July 7, 1862, and entertained about 2,500 ill, wounded or furloughed soldiers, on their homeward journeys. Several ladies went to the great hospitals to serve as nurses. A society of ladies furnished a large amount of aid, in the form of money, clothing and other necessities to the liberated or escaping slaves.

July 11, 1863, 702 citizens were drafted to meet a call for 347 men. Of these many were pronounced exempt for physical reasons; a few joined the army; 103 paid the commutation fee of \$300; 53 procured their own substitutes. Fifty-nine enrolled citizens sent substitutes previous to the draft.

Soon after the departure of the first troops, the honorary and past members of the Light Infantry and of the City Guards formed companies to serve as Home Guards and to serve as schools of training for recruits. In May, 1863,



the State Guard was chartered by the Legislature, and organized with Ivers Phillips as captain, Dana H. Fitch and John R. Green, lieutenants. The original call contained 101 names. The State Guard served most acceptably as escort at the obsequies of deceased soldiers, and for returning regiments. Sixteen members were detailed to do guard duty for the provost-marshal at the time of the draft, and the whole company were on duty for three or four days in charge of the rough characters enlisted from New York as substitutes. The act creating the State Guard was repealed in 1866, but a new charter was obtained in 1867, and soon after a battalion of two companies was formed. Their last parade was made on the occasion of the dedication of the Soldiers' Monument, July 15, 1874.

While the war was carried on at a distance from our own soil, Worcester was for part of the time without any armed military organization. As members of the police force or of the fire department enlisted in the army their places were at once filled, so that the city was constantly protected against any ordinary disturbance of the peace and against the ravages of fire. When the draft began, on the 11th of July, 1863, the "State Guards," although organized, were unprovided with efficient arms and ammunition. Two days later the terrible "draft riots" in New York began, and the excitement and alarm spread through the northern cities. An impression prevailed that the city authorities were remiss in their duty of preparing for the trouble which an hourly expected band of marauding ruffians from New York were to create. But ample preparations were made, although they have not hitherto been published. Immediately upon the first indication of trouble, Mr. Frank Wesson, rifle manufacturer of this city, called upon the mayor, Hon. D. Waldo Lincoln, and tendered the free use, if required, of from 300 to 400 carbines, with the necessary fixed ammunition, which for security he had removed from his factory to the cellar of his house. Mayor Lincoln sent for the chief engineer of the fire department, Mr. Alzirus Brown, to whom he explained the situation, requesting him to sound the officers and members of his force, to see if they could be relied upon in an emergency as a *posse* to aid the civil authorities, and if necessary, to use the arms. Mr. Brown, after investigation, reported that he would guarantee the readiness and fidelity of every man of his force. Here, then, was a band of 250 men, united, harmonious, and with all the *esprit de corps* characteristic of the organization, who stood ready to turn out, on a preconcerted signal to be given by the church bells, at a moment's warning. Fortunately the emergency did not arise.\*

The "Union League," which played an important part in the war of the rebellion, had a chapter here, which was organized in the summer of 1863. City Marshal Pratt and Chief Engineer Brown were members of the organization, and the same signal which was to summon the fire department as a military *posse*, was to call out the members of the league.

\* Gathered from MSS. of Hon. D. Waldo Lincoln.

In October, 1864, the (United States) "Dale Hospital" was opened on the grounds of the Female College on Providence Street, and was continued until after the close of the war.

The news of the fall of Richmond, the last stronghold of the Rebellion, received by telegraph April 3, 1865, caused the deepest joy and gratitude. On the afternoon of the 7th additional victories increased the excitement, which found vent in the firing of cannon, the ringing of bells and the screeching of steam-whistles. At night the city was generally illuminated. Near midnight of Sunday, the 9th, the church bells rang again for the surrender of Gen. Lee. The streets were filled at once with people, and bonfires were kindled at the street corners. Prominent citizens were visited by extemporized processions and were told the welcome news, to which they made appropriate response. The celebration continued through the following day, the fire department, the German societies and other organizations parading, and the evening saw another general and elaborate illumination of the city.

In marked contrast with these demonstrations of joy was the scene a few days later. At about midnight of April 14 the church bells began to toll. A circumstance so unprecedented could have but one cause. The people again poured into the streets, to learn of the assassination of President Lincoln. The city council were called together by Mayor Ball, at seven o'clock the next morning, and a public meeting was convened by him, at Mechanics' Hall, at ten. Hon. Alexander H. Bullock presided at the latter, and religious exercises were conducted by Rev. Dr. Sweetser and Rev. Merrill Richardson. On the 19th of April, the day of the funeral solemnities at Washington, business here was suspended, and the city draped in mourning. Religious services were held in the churches and the courts were adjourned. In accordance with the recommendation of the successor of the martyred president, services were again held in many of the churches on the first day of June, and a public gathering, convened by the city council, in Mechanics' Hall, was addressed in eloquent terms of eulogy by Hon. Alexander H. Bullock.

The fourth of July, 1865, was celebrated here as never before. A joint committee of the city government and the citizens arranged a celebration, which included an ovation to the returned soldiers and a grand procession exhibiting the industrial pursuits and resources of the city. Besides a very general and elaborate decoration of the city, a grand triumphal arch was erected across Main Street near Front, a memorial arch in front of the Central Exchange, and a rustic arch opposite School Street, all under direction of the committee. Elegant arches were erected by private hands at other points. James B. Blake, Esq., was marshal of the day. Every regiment that went from the county was represented in the long procession which moved through the streets in the forenoon. The school children, numbering over 6,000, arranged in double line along the route, sang patriotic airs, cheered and waved their tiny flags. The soldiers were finally escorted to Mechanics' Hall for



dinner, and were welcomed by Mayor Ball. Col. Pickett, their marshal, Chaplain George S. Ball, Col. William S. Lincoln and Col. Sprague made appropriate addresses. The afternoon procession, more than two miles long, included the Fire Department, the Irish Societies and the German Turners, and most elaborate representations of the trades and manufactures of the city. The evening witnessed a grand and general illumination.

The Soldiers' Monument forms a worthy subject of consideration at this point.

The city, which had cheerfully done its duty in sustaining the soldiers in the field, and had received with open arms the returning brave, was prompt in taking measures to commemorate the fallen. The Hon. James B. Blake, on taking his seat as mayor, Jan. 1, 1866, invited the city government to inaugurate such measures as would enable them, as recipients of the voluntary contributions of the people, to erect a monument to the glorious army of martyrs. This suggestion was referred to a special committee, who convened a general meeting of citizens February 10, when a committee of twenty-eight gentlemen was appointed to co-operate with a committee of the city government in receiving popular subscriptions. The work of canvassing the city for subscriptions began at once. The subscribers to the fund were called together Sept. 5, 1867, when it was reported that the amount of subscriptions was \$11,242.40. A committee of twenty-eight was appointed, who, with such as the city council might join, should continue the collection of subscriptions, and should have full powers to choose a site, select a design and erect a monument. Three aldermen and six councilmen were joined to the committee. The joint committee organized by choosing James B. Blake as chairman and Charles A. Chase secretary. An executive committee was chosen to procure plans and choose a site. It consisted of James B. Blake, E. B. Stoddard, George Crompton, Oliver K. Earle, David M. Woodward, R. M. Gould, M. S. McConville, Charles A. Chase and Joseph Chase. The first plan accepted by the committee (resembling in its general features the famous Arc de Triomphe de l'Etoile, at Paris), was estimated to cost not less than \$90,000; and, as a large appropriation from the city treasury would be required to secure its erection, the citizens were asked to vote upon the plan at the municipal election in December, 1868. It was rejected. June 25, 1871, the general committee were again called together, and George Crompton, Esq., was elected chairman, in place of Hon. James B. Blake, deceased. Edward L. Davis and Henry A. Marsh were added to the executive committee to fill vacancies caused by the deaths of Messrs. Blake and Earle. A model, prepared in clay by Randolph Rogers of Rome, was adopted by the executive and general committee. The wishes and tastes of the surviving soldiers of the war had been constantly kept in view. They were represented both upon the general and the executive committees, and the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic was invited to inspect and approve the models submitted for examination. The cost of the



monument was to be \$50,000. It was estimated that the interest upon the subscriptions would swell the fund to \$15,000. On request of the executive committee the city council, November 20, voted an appropriation of \$35,000 to secure the execution of the design. The sculptor returned to Rome, and began the task of executing his models, to be reproduced in bronze. It was found that no full list of our fallen soldiers was in existence, and the work of compiling one was attended with no little difficulty. The list, as completed and engraved upon the monument, includes :—

1st. Those who had an established residence in the city at the time of their enlistment, although they may have joined the quotas of other places.

2d. Those who served upon the quota of Worcester, whatever may have been their residence.

*Provided*, in each case, that the soldier was actually in the service of the United States at the time of his decease.

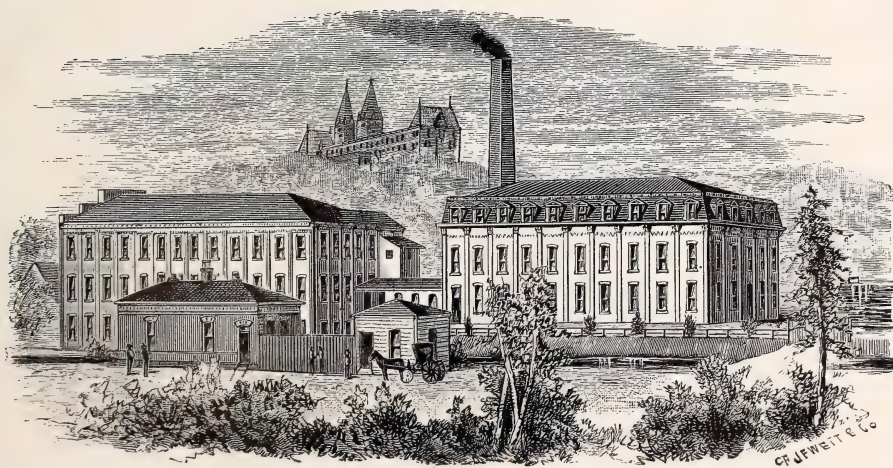
By permission of the city council, granted March 30, 1874, the Executive Committee selected the north-east part of the common as the most conspicuous site, and fixed upon Wednesday, July 15, for the dedication. The Hon. Alexander H. Bullock was invited to deliver an oration; Maj. Gen. Charles Devens, Jr., to deliver an address in response; and Hon. Benjamin F. Thomas, to write an ode. The Executive Committee invited Post 10 of the Grand Army to appoint a committee of five from their number to consult in relation to the dedication; and asked the city council to choose a committee to co-operate, in behalf of the city, in making the necessary arrangements. Brig. Gen. Josiah Pickett was invited to act as chief marshal. The sum of \$7,000 was voted by the city council to defray the expenses connected with the dedication, including the entertainment of the military and Grand Army organizations and other invited guests.

On Wednesday, July 15, 1874, the sun rose clear upon Worcester, gayly decorated as if in honor of some great event. The common, the city hall, and other buildings appropriated for the time to public use, had been dressed and adorned by the committee's order, while all along the prescribed route of the procession, private citizens had vied with each other in the tasteful decoration of their houses and grounds. The various organizations from other places were, on their arrival, escorted from the railroad stations to Brinley Hall, and furnished with a substantial luncheon before taking the places assigned to them in the programme of the day. At the close of the exercises they partook of a dinner furnished by the city, in Mechanics' Hall.

The procession was nearly a mile in length, and passed to the common by a route of long circuit, through streets lined with people gathered from the city and the country, past houses gayly and tastefully dressed with bunting, evergreen, and various devices of the decorator's art, halting at intervals to rest men and animals exposed to the burning sun of a summer's day, until at one o'clock the officers, orators and guests of the occasion, reached the shel-



CROMPTON'S LOOM WORKS, WORCESTER, MASS.



CROMPTON CARPET COMPANY'S WORKS, WORCESTER, MASS.





tered platform which had been built upon the common, a few rods west of the monument.

The procession was escorted by the 10th regiment, M. V. M., the 5th battery of light artillery, and the Worcester State Guard, platoons representing the 6th, 15th, 21st, 25th, 34th, 36th, 51st and 57th regiments of Mass. volunteers; Post 10, and twenty other posts of the Grand Army from this county, the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, German Turners, the Society and Ancient Order of Hibernians, St. Jean Baptiste Society, and the Worcester fire department. The invited guests who were present included Vice-President Henry Wilson, Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, Hon. George S. Boutwell, U. S. Senator; and Gen. John W. Kimball, commander of the State department of the Grand Army. The formal exercises of dedication began at one o'clock, P. M. After a voluntary by the Germania Band of Boston, prayer was offered by the Rev. William R. Huntington, rector of All Saints Church. The Hon. Benjamin F. Thomas of Boston read an original ode; and George Crompton, Esq., chairman of the committee, made a few introductory remarks, reciting the history of the enterprise. Then the drapery which had concealed the chief portions of the monument fell, revealing the beautiful masterpiece to the thousands of spectators. The band played "Keller's American Hymn," and the artillery fired a national salute. The addresses \* of Gov. Bullock and Gen. Devens followed. Mr. Crompton then surrendered the monument to the Hon. Edward L. Davis, Mayor, who received it in behalf of the city; and after the multitude had joined in singing "Old Hundred," a benediction was invoked by the Rev. Edward H. Hall, pastor of the second parish church, and late chaplain of the 44th Massachusetts volunteers.

The entire height of the monument is sixty-five feet. Upon buttresses, from each corner of the second die, stand figures in bronze, representing Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery and Navy; on the second die, the profiles in bas-relief of the late President Lincoln and Gov. Andrew, the dying soldier, in bass-relief, and the inscription, —

"ERECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF WORCESTER TO THE MEMORY OF HER SONS WHO DIED  
FOR THE UNITY OF THE REPUBLIC A. D. 1861-1865."

On the third die are the arms of the United States, the arms of the State of Massachusetts, and the seal of the city of Worcester; also the crossed swords and laurel wreath representing the army. A Corinthian cap upon a Roman column supports a semi-globe, upon which the Goddess of Victory is in the act of alighting, with sword aloft in the right hand and a palm in the left. On the first, or lower die, the names of 397 fallen soldiers are engraved on four bronze plates. At each of the four corners of the sub-base, stand, inverted, four bronze cannon, captured from the enemy in the war.

\* These addresses are given in full in the account of the dedication printed by order of the committee on the monument.

## THE ROLL OF HONOR.

The following names are inscribed upon the monument : —

*2d Regiment.* — John G. O'Connell.

*9th Regiment.* — Andrew Conlon, John Kelley, Charles Thompson.

*10th Regiment.* — Major Dexter F. Parker.

*11th Regiment.* — Philip Farley.

*12th Regiment.* — Isaac Kain.

*15th Regiment.* — Col. George H. Ward, Brevet Brig. Gen. U. S. Vols. ; Surgeon S. Foster Haven ; Adj. Dwight Newbury ; Lieuts. J. Wm. Grout, Thomas J. Spurr ; Sergts. George E. Barnard, Francis McCambridge, Benj. Taft ; Corpls. Warren A. Alger, Charles Davis, Edwin D. Jordan, Wm. D. Oakley, Charles W. Upham ; Privates Andrew Addison, Alfred A. Bachelor, John T. Bixby, Edwin E. Blake, William M. Blodgett, Thomas Cassidy, Hiram A. Chambers, Andrew S. Cobb, Bernard Cooney, Stillman L. Cummings, John H. Curran, Calvin J. Eaton, Francis W. Eaton, Patrick Finnegan, Michael Flinn, William H. Folger, Joseph Freeman, Harlow D. Getchell, Daniel Guilfoyle, Daniel Harris, William Hart, Charles Head, Patrick Hoyt, Cyrus Learned, Edson T. Leland, Thomas Magomery, Martin McBride, Albert Megan, Charles J. Merriam, John Morrissey, Francis H. Noyes, Leander J. Owens, George Parsons, James Perry, Calvin A. Rockwood, John Skirrington, John W. Smith, John F. Stafford, Charles H. Stiles, Alexander Thompson, J. F. Thornton, Melville Walker, David Welch.

*16th Regiment.* — Thomas Whalan.

*18th Regiment.* — Gideon P. Hero, Henry Parmenter.

*20th Regiment.* — Henry W. Brewer, John Dippolt, Jonathan Francis, Patrick McCullough, John Schilling.

*21st Regiment.* — Corpls. James H. Wilson, Charles S. Wilder ; Privates Austin Barton, Francis Bullard, John Davis, Patrick R. Fay, George H. French, William Frost, Carlos H. Goodrich, William McLean, Jefferson Paine, Emerson Phillips, Otis Potter, James Slater, John Wells.

*25th Regiment.* — Cpts. Thomas O'Neill, William Daly ; Adj. Henry McConville ; Lieuts. Henry Mathews, Charles H. Pelton ; Sergts. Orlando Hodgkins, Thomas J. McKeon ; Corpls. George A. Bixby, Warren O. Collesler, Jerome H. Fuller, Warren C. Hardy, Andrew J. Huse, Charles E. Jelly, Frank F. Knapp, John E. Lewis, Daniel B. McCrea, Patrick McDonough, Alfred Piper, Walter H. Richards, Samuel Thurston ; Privates John Q. Adams, William R. Alexander, Sidney J. Atkinson, Edward L. Barnard, Gardner F. Barnes, Hiram H. Billings, Peter Brady, Michael Brosnihan, George Burr, Patrick Burke, Daniel Canovan, Robert Carson, William R. Chapman, Robert T. Chapman, Charles W. Childs, George A. Coffin, Patrick Conlan, Patrick Cuddy, Charles F. Curtis, George E. Curtis, John Daly, Richard H. Daniels, Chauncey P. Demond, John H. Devereaux, Edward Donelan, Levi L. Eames, Stanley W. Edwards, Robert Empey, James R. Estey, Charles F. Fisher, Michael Fitzpatrick, Eugene Gantner, David Gardner, Samuel Gleason, Henry Goulding, 2d, John D. Grace, Benjamin C. Green, Samuel T. Hall, Joseph Heaton, Patrick Hogan, William E. Holman, John Howard, William Hudson, Otis H. Knight, Patrick Lamb, William Latham, Ira Lindsay, Francis Loveley, Edward F. May, William McDevitt, Charles A. McFarland, William J. McIntire, Silas H. McKoy, Michael McMahon, John Mihan, Benjamin Miller, Thomas O'Boyle, Dennis O'Connell, Joseph Orfall, Camille L. Ouimette, George F. Penniman, William Perkins, Jehu Perry, Eli Pike, Charles L. Rice, John Ryan, John B. Savage, Andrew Shaw, Ephraim Smith, Edgar A. Stone, James Stewart, Benjamin D. Thayer, William H. Wardwell, Marshall E. Warren, George Werner, James White.

*27th Regiment.* — Milo Pasco.

*28th Regiment.* — Lieut. Nicholas J. Barrett ; Sergt. Thomas Carroll ; Corpls. William H. Scofield, James Sweeney ; Privates Thomas Hackett, James Holden, Daniel O'Sullivan, William O'Donnell, Austin Yeldon.

*29th Regiment.* — William Klinkler, Hezekiah S. Sargent.

*31st Regiment.* — Corp. Charles A. Johnson ; Private Henry Young.



*32d Regiment.* — William W. Bangs, John Tobin, Charles Welch.

*34th Regiment.* — Major Harrison W. Pratt; Capt. William B. Bacon; Lieuts. Samuel F. Woods, Albert C. Walker; Sergt. Joseph W. Webber; Corpl. George H. Gilbert; Privates William A. Ballou, Edwin W. Barlow, Ziba A. Blodgett, Daniel Boyle, Charles W. Burbank, Edwin D. Burgess, Patrick Casey, Arthur L. Fox, Harvey Gilbert, Daniel Hurley, George T. Johnson, Lincoln L. Johnson, John A. Lewis, Timothy Moynihan, George Moran, John Morton, John A. Needham, Edwin W. Pierce, Albert M. Stewart, Harvey D. Stone, Harvey E. Truesdell, Alfred D. Washburn, James Welch.

*36th Regiment.* — Lieut. Henry W. Daniels; Sergts. Almon F. Bailey, Charles H. Boswell, George E. Freeman; Corples. Fanning T. Merritt, Henry H. Rice, Clark Robinson; Privates Solomon S. Bigelow, James S. Boswell, Lewis M. Brooks, Hiram E. Chambers, Merrick B. Converse, Myron M. Daniels, Dwight J. Dixon, Franklin S. Kelley, Michael Loughlin, Daniel H. Park, Charles W. Parker, Lucius A. Reynolds, Frederick Rath, William A. Smith, Hartwell C. Twichell.

*42d Regiment.* — William T. Cutler, Henry H. Lowell, George G. Harrington, Samuel J. Stone, Buckley Waters.

*49th Regiment.* — James Cressor.

*50th Regiment.* — Sergt. John Hines; Corpl. Michael McDonald; Privates Martin Fitzgerald, Patrick Murphy, Charles P. O'Rourke, James A. Power, Nicholas Skerrett, Owen Treanor.

*51st Regiment.* — Corples. Edwin H. Bliss, Charles H. Cutting; Privates William O. Botman, Thomas J. Gilbert, Seth B. Gordon, William F. Gordon, Charles W. Haven, Henry J. Kendall, Henry G. Longley, Solomon Parsons, Jr., Melville V. Ransom, Charles S. Smith, Eugene W. Stratton.

*54th Regiment.* — John H. Johnson.

*56th Regiment.* — John Swan.

*57th Regiment.* — Capt., Joseph W. Gird; Lieuts., Samuel M. Bowman, E. Dexter Cheney, James M. Childs, Edwin I. Coe, Albert M. Murdock; Sergts., Dwight D. Allen, James B. Freeman, J. Henry Fuller, William C. Park, Samuel Souther; Corples., Henry L. Park, George W. Willard, Charles E. Young; Privates, Jeremiah Buckley, Thomas Burke, Michael Cadigan, Silas N. Cater, Elisha C. Davenport, Charles F. Everett, Albert S. Ewing, Charles A. Fitts, Charles W. Frelick, Michael Gillin, John Handley, George F. Hood, Daniel Hooley, Martin L. Jordan, Martin Kiley, John Leary, Samuel M. Lovering, Daniel Maghnie, Lewis Moore, William K. Moore, Michael Morris, Daniel O'Connor, William E. Richards, Charles H. Rugg, Eugene Smith, James M. Stetson, Edward A. Walton, James J. Willard.

*58th Regiment.* — Isaac G. White.

*59th Regiment.* — Silas A. Coolidge.

*61st Regiment.* — Henry H. Fletcher.

*62d Regiment.* — Cutler Seaver.

*1st Cavalry.* — James E. Estabrook.

*2d Cavalry.* — Corpl., Jesse E. Hunt; Privates, James McGrath, Oliver A. Smith.

*5th Cavalry.* — Sergt., Henry G. Garner; Private, John Cheesman.

*3d Battalion Rifles.* — Private, Amos H. Gilbert.

*2d Heavy Artillery.* — Sergts., George C. Butler, George S. Duckworth, John M. White; Corples, Henry K. Hill, Henry T. Jennison, Jonas C. Keyes, Charles A. G. Rice, Henry T. Wheeler; Privates, Charles E. Bent, Leverett S. Butler, Richard D. Clark, Edmund Congdon, Thomas W. Edwards, George G. Gay, Peter J. McNulty, George W. Sampson, James H. Spaulding, Edwin M. Staples, Avery Sylvester, John Tunnicliffe, Luther P. Webber, George W. Wellington, Lewis E. Wilder, Hobart H. Woodbury.

*3d Heavy Artillery.* — Private, David Maxim, Jr.

*4th Heavy Artillery.* — Privates, George E. Cutler, A. Milton Seaver, Samuel W. Stratton, James Whitehouse.

*1st Battery.* — Private, Albert F. Hall.

*7th Battery.* — Private, John W. Forbes.



*Other Organizations.* — Samuel L. Bigelow, Brigade Surgeon; Major Benjamin W. Perkins, Quartermaster; Francis A. Conant, Medical Dept. U. S. A.; Lieut. Col. Wm. N. Green, 173d New York; Capt. Theodore Burdick, 7th Connecticut; Capt. William E. Hacker, 1st Maryland; Lieut. Francis Bacon, 102d New York; Lieut. Henry Holbrook, 3d R. I. H. A.; Lieut. John D. Mirick, 35th U. S. Colored Troops; Victor Whittemore, 1st Maine Cavalry; James Davis, 2d New Hampshire; George M. Kidder, 4th N. H.; Walter W. Smith, 6th N. H.; George W. Haskell, 1st Vermont Cavalry; Maurice Higgins, Michael P. Scannell, John B. Warner and Lyman Whitcomb, 3d Rhode Island; Sergt. Alvah A. Hoar and private C. Perley Russell, 6th Connecticut; John Holden, Amos S. Wilkins and James Welch, 5th N. Y. Cavalry; Augustus D. C. Guild, 9th New York; Sergt. Herbert J. Kendall, 51st N. Y.; John Powers, 73d N. Y.; Charles A. McKoy, 12th Maryland; John M. Fitzpatrick, 1st U. S. Infantry; Michael O'Toole, 3d U. S. I.; Francis M. Atherton and Josiah S. Estabrook, 11th U. S. I.; William J. Stamp, 18th U. S. I.; William H. Hector, 8th U. S. H. Artillery; Darius Starr, 2d U. S. Sharpshooters; Cornelius D. Reed, Carpenter's Mate, U. S. N.

## CHAPTER X.

MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOLS — EARLY PROVISION — FIRST SCHOOL-HOUSE — THE "OVERSEERS' BOARD" — FEMALE EDUCATION — HIGH SCHOOL — STATISTICS.

WORCESTER has ever been prominent in maintaining public schools for the education of her own children, and private institutions for the benefit of those who might be sent hither for instruction. It is of the first class, chiefly, that the writer is called upon to treat. The original committee for the settlement of the town agreed, in 1669, that a lot of land of twenty-five acres should be appropriated for the maintenance of a school and schoolmaster, to remain for that use forever. At the second settlement, 1684, a similar agreement was made, and it was enjoined "that care be taken to provide a schoolmaster in due season." But the hard lot of the first settlers, and their martial way of living, militated against carrying into execution the good intentions of the founders. It is not until 1726 that we find any record of public action in the way of providing education, — an article in the warrant for a town meeting in the previous December, "to see if the town would provide a writing-master to instruct ye youth," having been passed without notice. But on the 4th of April, 1726, it was voted "that ye selectmen forthwith take care & provid sufficient schoole for ye Education of Youth in sd Town of Worcester"; and thereupon the selectmen agreed "with Mr. Jonas Rice to be ye schoole-master for sd Town of Worcester and to teach such Children and Youth as any of ye Inhabitants Shall Send to him to read & to write as ye Law Directs — to keep Such schoole untill ye fifteenth Day of Decimber next Ensuing ye Date hearof: said Schoole to [be] Suported at the Towns Charge." The new enterprise for some reason was not popular, for on the 19th of "Decimber," on the question whether the town would take care to provide a schoolmaster, "it past in ye

Negative." This action, however, cost the town two pounds eight shillings and sixpence, the costs on a presentment by the grand jury. The first teacher had been selected by the selectmen, but at the May meeting, in 1727, a committee was appointed (our first "school committee"), consisting of James Holden, Moses Leonard, Henry Lee, John Hubbard and John Stearns, to provide a schoolmaster for one year. Jan. 15, 1728, it was voted "that Sixteen pounds Ten Shillings be assessed on ye rateable Inhabitents of Worcester for & towards ye support of ye Schoole in sd town." In May, 1729, the selectmen "agreed with Insin Benjamin Flagg to stand Schoolemaster in Worcester to teach Children and youth to read and write untill the fifteenth Day of September Next ensuing."

In April 1731, it was voted:—

"That ye Selectmen provid a Schoole master to keep a schoole for reading & writing for Childrin & Youth untill ye first day of September next ensuing; and whearas many small Childrin cannot attend ye school in ye Sentor of ye town by Reason of ye remoteness of their Dwellings, and to ye intent that all Childrin may have ye benifite of Education &c.

"Voted that a suitable number of School Dames not Exceeding five be provided by ye Selectmen at ye Charge of ye Town for ye teaching of small childrin to read, and to be placed in ye several parts of ye Town as ye Selectmen may think most Convenient and Such Gentlewomen to be payd by ye pole as ye Selectmen and they may agree."

The quarters of the town were almost literally "four equal parts," for they were formed by division lines drawn from the middle of each exterior boundary. A Mr. Wyman kept school fourteen weeks in 1732, for which he received £13 10s. and £3 for travel; Capt. Jonas Rice about four weeks, when Richard Rogers was engaged at the rate of £50 a year and continued in the service about eight years. The school of that day had a name but no local habitation; it moved from neighborhood to neighborhood to accommodate the children in different sections of the town. But in 1733 it seemed desirable that a building should be erected for its special use, and on May 15th it was voted:—

"That there be a School-house Built at ye Charge of ye Town and placed in ye Centor of ye South half of ye Town or as near as may be for Conveniency having Regard to Suitable ground for such a house to Stand on and whear Land may be purchised in Case it falls on mens perticuler property, provided ye purchis may be on Reasonable Terms &c.; that Col. John Chandler be the surveyor 'to find the Centor of ye South half of Worcester'; that 'ye house be Twenty-four feet Long Sixteen feet wide and seven feet Studd to be Completly finished with a good Chimney' &c., the whole to be done Under direction of a committee—Daniel Heywood, Benj. Flagg, Jr., and Thomas Stearns."

It was not until the summer of 1738 that a school-house was actually built,—an humble edifice sixteen feet by twenty-four, with seven feet posts,—at the north end of Main Street, very near the present site of the hay-scales.

Here John Adams, the successor of Washington in the Presidency, taught the grammar school from August, 1755, to October, 1758. This lot was subsequently exchanged for one on the west side of Summer Street, where a school-house of about the same proportions was built, which has only lately been demolished. At the same time (A. D. 1800) a similar one was built on a ledge in front of the site now occupied by the First Baptist Church. This school-house was removed, some fifty years ago, to the south-east corner of the burial-ground on the common, just north of the present mall.

In March, 1740, the sum of £100 was appropriated for schools, £50 to be applied towards keeping a grammar school and £50 divided among the quarters or skirts as usual, provided the body of the town keep a grammar school the year, and save the town from presentment; and provided the skirts do in the whole have 12 months schooling of a writing master, and that all the schools be free.

In March, 1742, it was voted "that nine months of the schooling be divided among the four quarters of the town equally — the school to be kept at Dr. Moore's, Thomas Parker's, Henry Lee's and Elisha Smith's; the other three months in the school-house."

In 1745, a committee appointed to recommend a school system, reported the following:—

"I. 110£ for support of schools.

"II. That a number of inhabitants, living remote from the school-house have the benefit of such sums as they shall be assessed toward ye 110£ — to support Suitable schools to instruct and teach their children in the best manner they may be able." [Here follows a list of the families to be so assessed.]

"III. The Remainder of the inhabitants of said town living within the aforesaid families to make up by a subscription or some other method a sufficient sum including their part of said tax to maintain and keep a grammar [High] school at ye school-house in sd town; so that ye town may not be at any time presented for want of ye same.

"IV. The aforesaid families, freed from paying to the town schoole as aforesaid, shall and may at any time send any of their children to be schooled at ye school-house, without paying anything therefor.

"V. Some suitable persons to be appointed by the town to take effectual care that the money so assessed be layd out in such way and manner as is proposed."

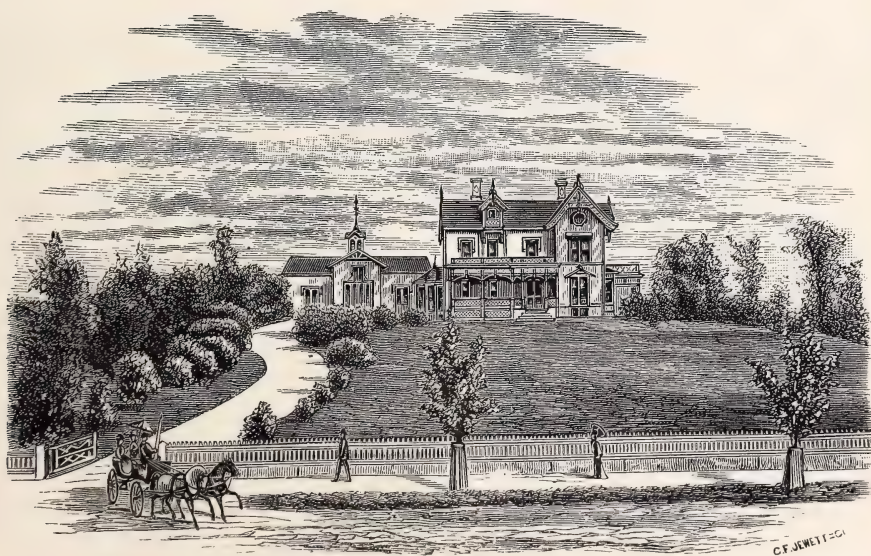
A committee appointed in 1748 to fix the town plat (i. e. the centre district) and to determine the places for school-houses in the four quarters of the town, made a report which was accepted, fixing the outlying school-houses as follows: "East quarter, between Benj. Flagg's & Matthias Stearns; west, ye crotch of the path between old Mr. Johnson & his son Solomon; south, on ye hill between Nathl Moore Jr. & Wm. Elder's; north, near Lt. Fisk's."

It early became evident that a more thorough and more constant system of education was required for the children of the central portion of the town than was practicable in the outer and sparsely settled districts. At the request of





RESIDENCE OF J. H. WALKER, WORCESTER, MASS.



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE S. BARTON, WORCESTER, MASS.



the inhabitants of the central district, or of many of them, it was voted in 1752 "that inhabitants in the centre of the bow extending one mile and a half round the school-house have allowed them their proportion of money for ye support of schooling, provided they do *bona fide* Keep a grammar school ye whole year, and if their proportion of the money will procure a school master more than 12 weeks, the usual time they have of late had schooling there, any person may have liberty to send their children after said 12 weeks." In 1763, James Putnam, John Chandler and others were granted leave to set up a school-house on such portion of the town land as the selectmen should think proper. A one-story house, with two rooms on the floor, was erected on the ministerial land, easterly from Main Street, south of the site of the Worcester Bank block. "During the Revolution," says Lincoln, "it was converted into a dwelling, and remained until modern improvements swept away the ancient house and the venerable elms that embowered its lowly roof." In 1769 the proprietors of this school were allowed £16 by the town, "they engaging that the school shall be free for all persons in the town desirous of learning the languages," i. e., Latin and Greek. Among those who were fitted for college (Harvard) in this school were, probably, Rufus, Nathaniel and William Chandler, sons of the second judge John Chandler, Dr. William Paine and his brothers Samuel and Nathaniel, James Putnam, Jr., and Daniel Bigelow (afterwards county attorney).

The appropriation for schools in 1781 was £4,000; in 1782, £100. The former sum was in Continental money, the latter in redeemable currency. The town was again presented in 1785 for not maintaining a grammar school, and the committee on public schools were instructed to agree with the proprietors of the private institution to exempt the town from future fine. A second association of gentlemen, uniting in a stock company, hired a lot of land (which they afterwards purchased), just north of the present State Mutual Life Assurance Company's building, and erected a school-house in 1792. Here two schools were opened, — one for the common elementary studies, and the other for the highest branches of academic education. These schools were founded by the proprietors especially for the advantage of their own children; and, when these had grown up and entered college or engaged in business affairs, the schools began to languish, and in July, 1801, the building and land were sold to the inhabitants of the centre district. The building was moved back about fifty feet from the street, and occupied by schools until some thirty-five years ago, when a new school-house of brick was built just north of the old one, and the latter was sold, moved forward to its original site, and, its front having been covered with a brick wall, converted into stores and offices. The second "centre school-house" was occupied about twenty years, when it was sold to David S. Messinger (in 1867), and converted into stores and dwellings. The original brick school-house in Thomas Street was built in 1832, on land



devised to the city by Isaiah Thomas. It stood immediately in front of the present building.

We have seen that the town, from time to time, appointed a special committee to hire a teacher or to manage the schools, — a duty which, without such action, vested in the selectmen. It was very early felt that different qualifications were necessary for the management of schools than for the general administration of town affairs. In 1823 a committee, of which Samuel M. Burnside was chairman, was appointed at a school meeting of the centre district to report upon the general concerns of the district. The report of this committee \* contains, besides other recommendations of importance, the following : —

*“In the third place, Your Committee recommend, that a board of twelve overseers be chosen annually by ballot, whose duty it shall be, in conjunction with the Selectmen, to determine upon the qualifications of instructors and to contract with them for their services ; — to determine upon the attainments of scholars, to be admitted into said Schools respectively : — to prescribe the course of instruction therein, and all necessary rules and regulations for the government thereof ; — to determine upon all complaints of instructors, of parents or of scholars, which may arise in relation to said schools, or either of them ; — to visit and examine said schools respectively, at stated periods during the year ; — to encourage, in every suitable manner, both instructors and scholars in the performance of their relative duties ; and to make a report in writing annually to the District, of the condition of said Schools during the period of their office.”*

The recommendations of the report were adopted. Mr. Burnside's associates on the committee making the report were Aaron Bancroft, Jonathan Going, Levi Lincoln, Otis Corbett, and Samuel Jennison. The first board of overseers included all the members of the committee except Mr. Jennison, with Aretius B. Hull, Loammi Ives Hoadley, John Davis, Theophilus Wheeler, Enoch Flagg, Benjamin Chapin, and Frederick W. Paine. In accordance with other recommendations of the report, the schools of the district were graded, and special authority was obtained from the Legislature to raise money by assessment of the inhabitants of the district. Three years after the date of the report, Mr. Burnside, being sent to the House of Representatives, embodied his plan of a special board of public officers to have charge of schools in “A bill to further provide for the instruction of youth,” and procured the passage of the same by the Legislature. The practice of vesting the exclusive jurisdiction over the public schools in a committee elected directly by the people is believed to have been first adopted here, and its extension over the whole State was due to the efforts of Mr. Burnside.

The report of the “Overseers” for 1828 shows that, in addition to the [Latin] grammar school which was supported by the town, and which was for boys only, eight permanent schools and one temporary one had been established by the district. They comprised the north and south infant schools, kept in

\* Reprinted in Appendix to Worcester School Report of 1872.

the small school-houses built in 1800, and situated respectively on the west side of Summer Street, and on the south-east part of the common; the north and south primary schools (both kept in the centre school-house); the second female school and the English school for boys; and the female high school, which corresponded to the Latin grammar school, except that English branches only were taught; the African school, situated on the eastern corner of the Pine Street burial-ground, which had just been established, and which was maintained until 1854; and the apprentices' school, kept for three months in the winter for apprentices and clerks.

A recommendation made by Dr. Bancroft was adopted Feb. 23, 1825, and it was ordered "that at two o'clock of the afternoon of the Saturday which closes the scholastic year, a public address be annually delivered in one of the houses for public worship, by some person appointed by the board; the prominent objects of which shall be, to illustrate the importance of good education and the best method of acquiring and extending such an education; and give to the district assembled a just view of the manner in which their schools are and should be conducted. Let this address be followed by prayer. Let proper measures be taken to insure a full audience from the District, and let the pupils of each school be seated together, with their teacher at their head. Further pageantry, the committee think, would be unnecessary and useless." This pleasant custom was continued until about the year 1840, when the increase of population had rendered it impossible to collect all the school children of the town in a single church. The first three addresses were delivered by members of the first board of overseers, — Aaron Bancroft, Samuel M. Burnside, and Jonathan Going.

On the incorporation of the city in 1848, there were eight infant schools, five primary, three grammar, the high school and the African school in the centre district, and fifteen schools in the thirteen outer districts. All these at once came under the charge of the city.

In 1844 public sentiment had so far advanced here that it was deemed both desirable and safe to give a classical education to girls, and a town meeting ordered the establishment of the "Classical and English High School," which should be open to scholars from the whole town, and be capable of accommodating at least seventy-five boys and one hundred girls. The sum of \$12,000 was appropriated for the erection of a new building, and a committee, of which Samuel F. Haven was chairman, was appointed to build and start the school. A substantial brick building,\* two stories in height, with a half basement, was erected on the south-west corner of Walnut and Maple streets. A large school-room on the first floor, with which two recitation-rooms connected, was devoted to the English department, and there were similar accommodations in the second story for the classical department. Elbridge Smith (now master of the Dorchester high school) was the first principal, continuing from Aug. 5, 1845,

\* Since removed to the north side of Walnut Street.



the opening day, to September, 1847. His first assistant, who had charge of the lower school-room, was Hasbrouck Davis, second son of Gov. Davis. The other assistants were Martha K. Baldwin and Anna F. Brown (the late Mrs. Charles Washburn). William E. Starr succeeded Mr. Davis in September, 1846, and continued in charge of the English department for ten years. The other principals have been : Nelson Wheeler, George Capron, L. D. Chapin (for one month), Osgood Johnson, Homer B. Sprague, Harris R. Greene, J. F. Clafin, Ellis Peterson (for two periods), Abner H. Davis, Joseph W. Fairbanks, and Samuel Thurber. Among the assistants have been : George P. Fisher (now of New Haven), James M. Whiton, Phineas W. Calkins, James K. Lombard, and others who have attained to fame. Of the present corps, one is in her fifteenth year of service, and another in her twelfth. Changes in the internal arrangements of the high-school building were made, from year to year, to accommodate the increasing number of pupils, but it was impossible to meet the requirements of a rapidly-increasing population. The report of the school committee for the year 1865, written by Rev. Rush R. Shippen, expressed the hope that the building might be turned into a grammar school, and a more convenient and suitable building be erected for the high school. This recommendation was afterwards renewed by Mayor Blake and Superintendent Marble. In February, 1869, the school committee referred the subject to the sub-committee on school-houses, who made a favorable report, and, a month later, a petition for a new high school, signed by a thousand and six citizens, endorsed by the school committee, was referred to the City Council. The latter body placed the matter in the hands of its joint committee on education. A lot of land, south of the old building and east of the girls' playground, was bought; a design, furnished by Gambrill & Richardson, architects, of New York, was adopted; and a contract was made with the Messrs. Norcross Brothers for the erection of the building, under the supervision of Earle & Fuller, architects, of this city. The new building was erected upon the old playgrounds, the land in front being raised to form a terrace. The exercises of dedication, which were attended by a large number of invited guests from abroad as well as from this city, were held Dec. 30, 1871. Mayor Blake, to whom the enterprise owed much of its success, had died in December, 1870, and the Hon. Edward Earle, mayor in 1871, presided at the dedication. He reviewed the history of the new building, and described its structure. The Hon. P. Emory Aldrich, chairman of the committee on the high school, receiving the keys at the mayor's hands, gave the history of the school itself. Other addresses were made by Abner H. Davis, master of the school; Albert P. Marble, superintendent of schools; the Hon. Alexander H. Bullock, Hon. John Eaton, Jr., United States commissioner of education, and other gentlemen.\*

The first principal of the high school, Mr. Smith, gave a course of public

\* A full report of the exercises is preserved in pamphlet form.



lectures, the proceeds of which, supplemented by a liberal gift from the Hon. Stephen Salisbury, were devoted to the purchase of philosophical apparatus. In 1859 the Hon. Alexander H. Bullock, while mayor, gave the city \$1,000 (which was \$400 more than his salary) as a fund, the income of which should be appropriated for the encouragement of scholarship and deportment. For seven years, twenty silver medals were annually distributed among as many scholars designated by a committee of citizens chosen for the purpose. In 1868, with the consent of the donor, the name of the fund was changed to the Bullock fund for the library and apparatus.

A fine-toned bell and two fountains for the terrace were given, on the completion of the new building, by William Dickinson, Esq.; a large tower-clock and twelve smaller ones in the school-rooms by Mayor Earle, and a grand piano by the Hon. Stephen Salisbury. No less than sixty-four graduates or students of the school served with the northern army in the last war, and fourteen gave their lives to their country. The building and the additional land cost nearly \$180,000. It is one of the very finest buildings, architecturally, in the city, but its site is unfortunate, for there is no easily accessible point from which its beauty can be fully appreciated. The whole number of sittings in the high school is 502. Six male teachers and seven female teachers are employed. The average attendance of pupils during the twelve months ending Nov. 30, 1878, was 441.1. Salaries paid to the thirteen teachers, \$13,660.

The present number of school-houses in the city is 36, with sittings for 8,997 pupils. The average daily attendance last year was 7,124, which was 93.9 per cent. of the whole number belonging to the schools. The whole number of teachers was:—for the day schools, 191; evening schools, 11 males and 14 females; free evening drawing schools, 3 males. Of the school-houses twenty-seven are of brick, several of them of fine appearance. The buildings are valued at \$595,500 and the land devoted to them at \$246,017 more. Of the 7,873 children belonging to the public schools at the close of the fall term in 1878, the birth-places were as follows:—United States, 7,418; Ireland, 131; Canada, 116; England, 104; Germany, 9; Scotland, 29; France, 1; New Brunswick, 3; Nova Scotia, 7; Sweden, 36; Norway, 1; Denmark, 2; Wales, 3; Italy, 5; Africa, 1; Belgium, 3; Azores, 2; West Indies, 1; Poland, 1.

The excellence of the public schools of Worcester has always been a barrier to the success of private schools to any great extent, and has had the effect to keep the standard of the private institutions very high. For several years past schools have been maintained by the parish of St. John's Church, under the instruction of the Sisters of Notre Dame, with an attendance of about one thousand pupils. About one hundred pupils attend the State Normal School, and the number in the private schools is about ninety-seven.\*

The cost of schools in the centre district for the year ending April, 1839, was \$4,200.99. The cost for the other districts was probably a less sum. The

\* See the County history in the first part of this work.

amount paid on account of the schools in the whole city in 1878, was \$141,-678.49. Of the one hundred and ninety-one regular teachers, one hundred are graduates of the State Normal Schools, or of the Worcester Training School, which was maintained for six years previous to the establishment of the Normal School in Worcester, which was opened in September, 1874.

The art of drawing is taught in all the schools. In October, 1870, free evening drawing schools were established, open to all residents of Worcester over fifteen years of age who do not attend school. In 1872 the upper rooms of the Walnut Street school-house were assigned to the use of these schools, and the sum of \$2,000 was appropriated for the purchase of casts of master-pieces of sculpture, which was judiciously expended. Excellent results have been obtained from the tuition given in these schools.

The school system of Worcester was represented at the world's fair held in Vienna, in 1872. The contribution comprised a large printed chart, showing statistics of population, valuation, school attendance, &c.; the grades and sub-grades of schools, topics of instruction for each grade, number of schools; of teachers, male and female, and their salaries; of pupils, male and female, and their average age for each grade; and facts about the other educational and benevolent institutions of the city; also an album of photographs, showing the exterior of twelve or fifteen school-houses and their interior arrangement, and all the other institutions of learning about the city, including the free public library and the Antiquarian Hall; with these was a brief description of each; and lastly eight volumes of catalogues and pamphlets relating to education in the city. The contribution was honored with a diploma of merit. A fuller exhibition was made at the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876.

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## CHAPTER XI.

THE BEGINNING OF RAILROADS IN WORCESTER — THE BOSTON AND WORCESTER — THE WESTERN ROAD — THE NORWICH AND WORCESTER — THE PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER — THE WORCESTER AND NASHUA — THE BOSTON, BARRE AND GARDNER — THE WORCESTER AND SHREWSBURY — THE WORCESTER HORSE RAILROAD.

THE first railroad station in Worcester, built for the first railroad, the Boston and Worcester, occupied the site of the present Worcester Bank Block on Foster Street. The bell which gave warning of the departure of trains, was suspended from a tree near the corner of Main Street. The cars were small and of the English pattern, built after the fashion of stage-coaches, in two compartments with doors at the sides. The brakemen sat upon the "driver's





C.F. JEWETT & CO.

UNION PASSENGER STATION, WORCESTER, MASS.





seat" on top, and the conductor passed from car to car by a platform running along the sides.

The engines were small affairs, some of them imported from England. There were at first three passenger trains daily, on week days only, and the time occupied in the journey was from two and one-half to three hours. The first through train arrived in Worcester, July 4, 1835.\*

Of the five original conductors on this road, Thomas Tucker of Westborough, and George S. Howe of this city, survive. The total receipts of the road for the first six months of its existence were:—from passengers, \$72,-912.12; from freight, \$18,828.21; net income, \$51,272.67. Whole number of passengers conveyed, 72,558.

April 25, 1838, Daniel Waldo, Stephen Salisbury and Levi Lincoln were incorporated, with their associates, under the name of the Worcester Branch Railroad Company, with authority to build a railroad from Lincoln Square to the Boston and Worcester Railroad (through the valley), and also with the consent of the inhabitants of the town and the County Commissioners, to build a line from Lincoln Square through Main Street to a position near the passenger station of the Boston and Worcester Railroad. The road was built upon the first-named route about the year 1841. It followed the line of Union Street for the whole or greater part of its course, and was only abandoned after the opening of the Worcester and Nashua Railroad. The original charter provided that only horse-power should be used, but this was modified to allow the use of steam. The road was a great convenience to the manufacturers along its line. A large brick freight-house was erected at the junction of Lincoln Square with Summer Street, for which there could be little use. The building was afterwards purchased by Hon. Stephen Salisbury, and has since been used as a boot-factory and a store-house.

By a resolve passed June 14, 1827, the governor was authorized to cause the survey of a railroad route from Boston to the State line of New York, and with the permission of the New York Legislature to the Hudson River.

The Western Railroad was incorporated March 15, 1833, for the purpose of building a railroad from the western termination of the Boston and Worcester Railroad to the western boundary of the State. Of the original stock, \$3,000,-000, the Commonwealth, which is still a very large stockholder, took one-third. As "the western termination" of the Boston railroad was near Main Street, it was for many years claimed by Worcester people that the Western road should have its eastern terminus at that point. It was fixed, however, at Washington Square. But to comply with the spirit of the charter, and to bring passengers into the centre of the town, all the passenger trains were "switched" at the Square, and arrived at and departed from the Foster Street station for several years, or until the establishment of through express trains to New York led to the abandonment of this practice. Regular trains to Springfield began running

\* See County History, pp. 83 *et seq.*

Oct. 1, 1839, the through time from Boston being a little more than six hours.

Trains began to run regularly over the Norwich and Worcester Railroad (chartered in March, 1833), April 1, 1840. To secure a "union station," that of the Boston and Worcester road was moved a few rods easterly, forming the east wing of the new building, for which a south wing was built to accommodate the Norwich cars, and a central portion contained the ticket-office, waiting and refreshment rooms, while the second story was occupied as a dwelling. The opening of this road, in connection with a line of small steamboats running from Norwich, furnished the first continuous steam-line between Boston and New York. The famous Cunard line of steamships to England, originally ran only between Liverpool and Boston. Leaving Liverpool on Saturdays, and occupying frequently fifteen days for their trip, they often arrived at Boston on Sunday morning. The eagerness of passengers bound South to reach their destination, and the desire of New York merchants to obtain their fortnightly foreign mail without loss of time, together with the enterprise of the newspaper publishers of New York, led to the running of a special train over this route on such occasions, an event which drew a large concourse of citizens to the station.\*

On the completion of the Long Island Railroad from Brooklyn to Greenport, the first "through by daylight" line between New York and Boston was formed, passengers taking the ferry to Brooklyn, and being conveyed from Greenport to New London by a swift steamer. From the latter point they came, via Norwich, to Worcester, and so on to Boston. This route was quite popular for a time, but the completion of a railroad from New York to Springfield via New Haven furnished an all-rail route which dispensed with all water-carriage, and the Long Island line, as a through route, was abandoned.

The Providence and Worcester Railroad had for its first conductors William H. Jourdan and John E. Taft, the latter of whom has continued to act as conductor, except for a brief interval, to the present time. Foster Street was the railroad centre of the town at the time, and by arrangement with the Norwich and Worcester Company, the Providence road occupied the station of the former jointly, for about a year. From that time until Feb. 16, 1877, the Providence cars ran to Green Street; they now run to the Union Station.

\* The Cunard Company afterwards began to make weekly trips alternately to Boston and New York. On the completion of the telegraph to Halifax, an abstract of the foreign news, prepared by the agent at Liverpool of the American Associated Press, was telegraphed from Halifax to the daily newspapers belonging to the association. Later on, a similar abstract brought by a line of steamers running to Quebec, was sent on shore at Father Point (Point aux Pères) on the St. Lawrence, from whence it was telegraphed in the same way. The next step taken by the enterprising newsmen was to have the news despatch, enclosed in a water-tight tin case, surmounted by a red flag, thrown overboard from the westward-bound steamers as they neared Cape Race to take a new departure southward. Venturesome fishermen cruised in search of these packages, stimulated by the reward attending their safe delivery at the station at Cape Race. The completion of the submarine Atlantic telegraph-cable superseded all these ingenious devices.



Although Worcester people had lent their aid, by subscribing to the stock of the railroads which had previously been built, the first one which was especially a local enterprise was the Worcester and Nashua, opened Dec. 18, 1848. The company, by purchase, obtained the right to use the north track in the Boston and Worcester station, and continued to do so until 1877, when the trains began to run to the Union Passenger Station. For some time after the opening of the road, passengers and baggage for the West were transferred by coaches until an extension of the tracks was made to the "Junction," where exchanges were made with the Western and the Providence roads.

Among the railroad routes to the west first discussed in Massachusetts, one over the Hoosac Mountain was prominent. As one link in the proposed chain, the Boston, Barre and Gardner Railroad, which would practically be a continuation of the Boston and Worcester road, was chartered in 1848. The building of the Western Railroad gave a check to the enterprise, for nobody was so wild at that time as to think that more than one route would ever be required. The charter was kept alive, however, by successive acts of the legislature; first, because it might prove wise to build it merely as a local road, and secondly, because the project of tunneling the Hoosac Mountain soon began to be agitated afresh. The subsequent beginning and assured completion of the latter enterprise gave new life to the dormant charter, and the road to Gardner giving connection with the tunnel route was opened Sept. 4, 1871. This railroad was largely built by the municipal aid of the towns upon its route. The city of Worcester subscribed \$260,000 to the enterprise.

The depression in business which prevailed through the country since 1873 seriously affected the Nashua and the Gardner railroads, which had assumed burdens not contemplated in their original charters. Measures of relief, through scaling down the interest on their indebtedness, have been adopted, which it is hoped will be effectual.

The Worcester and Shrewsbury Railroad, chartered in 1873, was built upon the narrow-gauge plan, and was opened to traffic, for passengers only, as far as Lake Quinsigamond, the present terminus, in the same year. The road begins on Shrewsbury Street, north of the Union Station, follows the line of that street and East Worcester Street, and, running parallel with the Boston and Albany Railroad, climbs the ledge through which the latter is cut, and by a long curve descends to the level of the lake. Hon. E. B. Stoddard has been president of the road from the beginning until the present autumn (1879). He is succeeded by Col. A. George Bullock. The receipts of the road for the year ending Sept. 30, 1879, were \$10,473.09. A little settlement, called Lake View, has sprung up on the eastern slope of the hill, near the lake, and a school-house, in which religious services are held on Sundays, has been built for the accommodation of the people.

The Worcester Horse Railroad, incorporated in 1861, was built in 1863 from the corner of Lincoln Street and Harrington Avenue to Webster Square,

with branches through Front Street to Washington Square, and through Pleasant Street to the junction of the latter with West Street. Its president was James B. Blake. The heavy operating expenses of the first few years caused the road to pass into the hands of the bondholders, and it was sold to a new corporation, the Worcester Street Railway Company, chartered in 1869, of which Augustus Seeley of New York is president. The road is a great public convenience, and is now a good investment. The Pleasant Street spur was taken up after a few years.

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## CHAPTER XII.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES:—DANIEL HENCHMAN—JOHN CHANDLER—TIMOTHY PAINE—TIMOTHY BIGELOW—JOHN GREEN—LEVI LINCOLN, SR.—LEVI LINCOLN, JR.—CHARLES ALLEN—JAMES PUTNAM—FRANCIS BLAKE—SAMUEL M. BURNSIDE—ALFRED D. FOSTER—JOHN DAVIS—JOHN C. BANCROFT—EMORY WASHBURN—IRA M. BARTON—SAMUEL B. WOODWARD—STEPHEN SALISBURY—DANIEL WALDO—ISAIAH THOMAS—PLINY MERRICK—CHARLES DEVENS—GEORGE F. HOAR—HENRY CHAPIN—PETER C. BACON—JOHN S. C. KNOWLTON—GEORGE W. RICHARDSON—ISAAC DAVIS—ALEXANDER H. BULLOCK—WILLIAM W. RICE—P. EMORY ALDRICH—DANIEL W. LINCOLN—PHINEAS BALL—JAMES B. BLAKE—EDWARD EARLE—GEORGE F. VERRY—CLARK JILLSON—EDWARD L. DAVIS—CHARLES B. PRATT.

It is not within the scope of this history to enter largely upon the biographic field. The labors of genealogical societies and the pens of descendants taking a just pride in the character and achievements of their distinguished ancestors, have perpetuated the memory of many of our former citizens. We can only make allusion to some families and some individuals who have been especially prominent in municipal or political affairs.

Daniel Henchman, a prominent pioneer in the settlement of the town, built upon the west side of Lincoln Street, near Henchman Street. Capt. Henchman was not long a resident, but one of his sons, Nathaniel, lived there for many years. On the death of the latter, Capt. Henchman's granddaughter, Lydia Hancock, wife of Thomas Hancock, obtained the property by inheritance and by purchase from the other heirs, and on her death it passed to Gov. John Hancock, the leader of the Revolution, who built an elegant mansion on the land, which he frequently occupied as a summer residence.

The first clerk of the judicial courts for this county was John Chandler, son of John Chandler of Woodstock, then a town of this county. His father was the first Judge of Probate, first justice of the Courts of Common Pleas and General Sessions, and colonel of the regiment of militia, offices which he

retained until his death in 1743. John Chandler of Worcester came to the town from Woodstock in 1731, and continued to be clerk until 1754. It was common at that time for one man to hold several public offices, a custom which the increased duties of the positions, together with public sentiment and in some cases the provisions of law, have to a considerable extent rendered obsolete. We find that our John Chandler, besides holding the office of clerk, was register of probate to 1754, register of deeds to 1762, sheriff from 1751 to 1762, selectman from 1732 to 1736 and from 1741 to 1754, and representative from 1735 to 1740. On the decease of his father, he succeeded to the higher offices of judge, colonel and councillor. "His talents," says Lincoln, "were rather brilliant and showy than solid or profound. With manners highly popular, he possessed cheerful and joyous disposition, indulging in jest and hilarity, and exercised liberal hospitality. While Judge of Probate, he kept open table, on court days, for the widows and orphans who were brought to his tribunal by concerns of business. He died at Worcester in 1763."

John Chandler, son of the last-named, was born Feb. 26, 1720. He succeeded, as if by inheritance, to the military, municipal and some of the judicial offices of his father, and was a man of high character, but became unpopular with his fellow-citizens on account of his warmly espousing the cause of the king at the outbreak of the Revolution. His integrity of character was shown by his course, to which allusion has previously been made,\* on presenting his claim to the British Government for loss sustained by the confiscation of his estates in this country, the extreme moderateness of which gained him the title of "the honest refugee." The blood of the Chandlers still flows in the family of Dr. George Chandler and of others who have received it on the maternal side, among them being the Lincolns and Paines, H. G. O. Blake, Mrs. George T. Rice and the children of the late Mrs. [Governor] John Davis.

Timothy Paine, previously mentioned in these pages,† the youngest son of Nathaniel Paine of Bristol, R. I., came to Worcester with his father at the age of eight years, in 1738. Graduating at Harvard College in 1748, he married, in the following year, the daughter of the last Judge Chandler. A short time before the breaking out of the Revolution he began to build the mansion on the west side of Lincoln Street, now known as the "Oaks," the completion of which he was obliged to defer until more peaceful times. The place has continued in possession of the family for five generations. Timothy Paine was ancestor of the Paines now living in the city, of Mrs. W. W. Chamberlin, Mrs. William Kinnicutt, and of Thomas and Miss Harriet B. Kinnicutt. His eldest son, William, graduated at Cambridge, studied medicine and began to practise here in 1771. With Drs. Shepherd and Hunt of Northampton he opened, in 1772, the first apothecary's shop in the county. Visiting Europe in the interest of his business and his profession, he landed in Salem on his return in 1775, to find that war had been declared and that he had been denounced as a loyalist

\* Page 585.

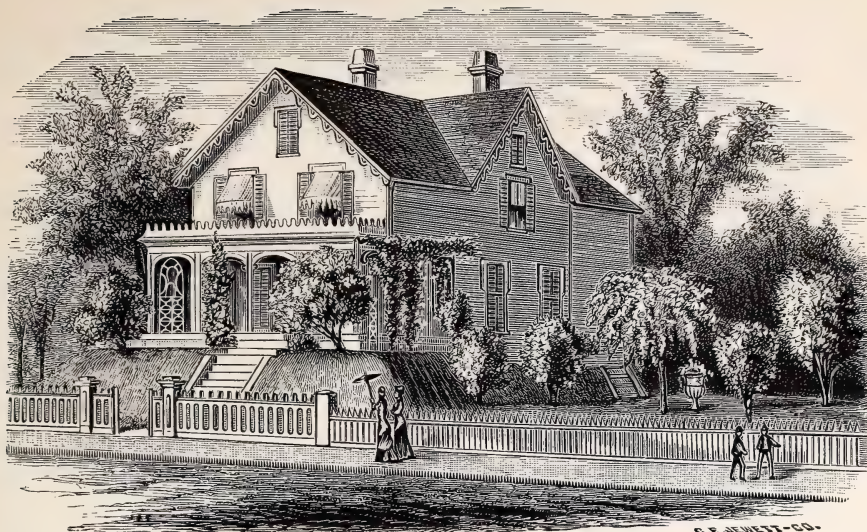
† Page 582.



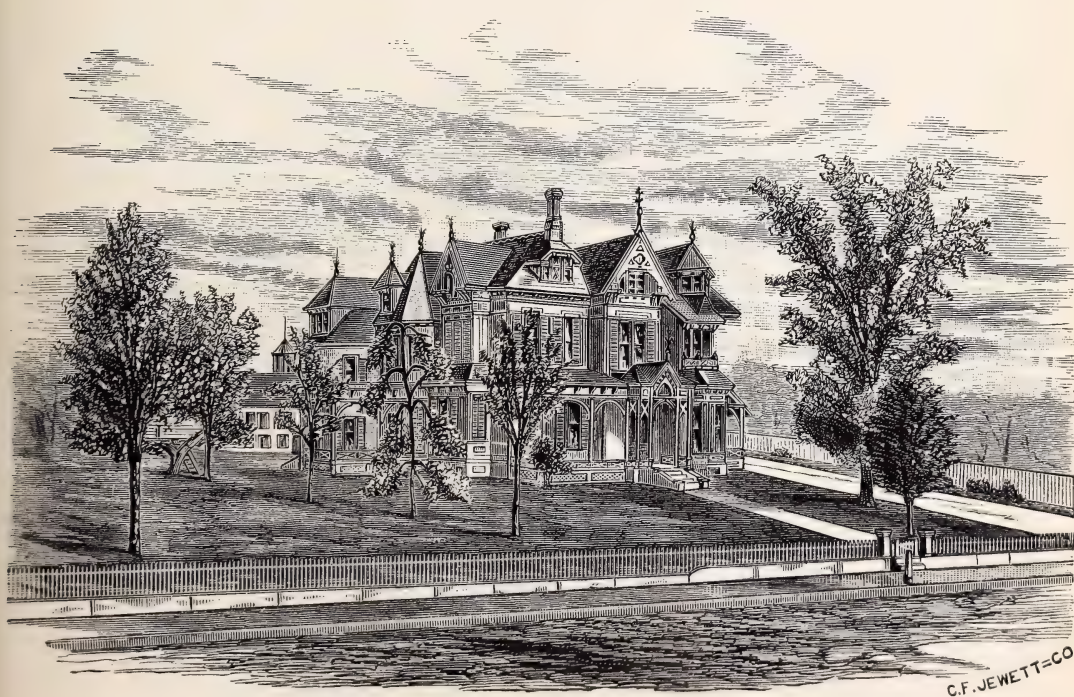
absentee. He therefore returned to Europe, completed his studies and entered the army as apothecary, serving in that capacity and as surgeon until the close of the war. He lived for awhile at the island of Le Tête, granted by the British Government as a reward for his services, and afterwards at St. John, N. B., from which place he was elected member of the assembly of New Brunswick. In 1787, by permission of government, he returned to this country, remaining at Salem until the death of his father in 1793, when he returned to "The Oaks," which his father had left to a younger son, Nathaniel, in trust for William, who only came into full possession of the property when the legislature of 1812 consented to his being naturalized as a citizen. Frederick William Paine, the youngest of Dr. Paine's five children, born in Salem in 1788, is well remembered for the prominent part which he took in town affairs. Besides being representative to the legislature and assessor, he was for ten years one of the selectmen, and for five years chairman of the board. He was president of the Worcester Mutual Fire Insurance Company from 1831 to 1852, and its treasurer until his death in 1869.

Nathaniel Paine, brother of Dr. William, was graduated at Cambridge in 1775, was county attorney from 1789 until 1801, and judge of probate for thirty-five years following. He died Oct. 7, 1840. His grandchildren now resident here are Nathaniel Paine and his sister, Miss Annie E., and their cousin, Mrs. W. W. Chamberlin.

Col. Timothy Bigelow, a prominent hero of the Revolution, was the fourth child and youngest son of Daniel Bigelow, a substantial farmer who came to Worcester from Watertown and settled in that part of the town called Bogachoag, which was afterwards set off to Ward. He was born Aug. 12, 1739. Having been apprenticed to a mechanic's trade, he built a forge on the south side of Lincoln Square, and from that time was prominent in the affairs of the town and the nation. The want of a liberal education was in large measure supplied by careful reading, and a study of the best English authors gave him a command of language and a correctness of style which served him well in the spirited debates which subsequently took place between Whigs and Tories in town meetings, and in the political societies and clubs. As a member of the famous "Whig Club" which met in Boston, he was the associate of Warren and Otis. He was a delegate to the first and second sessions of the Provincial Congress. Leading his thoroughly disciplined company of "minute-men" forth from Worcester on the 19th of April, 1775, on arriving at Cambridge he joined the army as captain, and was soon promoted by Congress to be major. Joining the unfortunate expedition against Quebec in the autumn of 1775, he was made a prisoner in the attack upon that stronghold and held until an exchange was effected in the following summer. In February, 1777, he became colonel of the 15th regiment of the Massachusetts line, and when he had filled his ranks and disciplined his men he led them to join the northern army under Gen. Gates in New York. He and his regiment figured promi-



RESIDENCE OF WARREN MCFARLAND, WORCESTER, MASS.



RESIDENCE OF J. EDWIN SMITH, WORCESTER, MASS.







nently at Saratoga, Verplanck's, Robinson's Farms, Peekskill, Valley Forge, and West Point. On the disbanding of the army he continued for a time in the service, and, after a short term of service at West Point, was assigned to the command of the national arsenal at Springfield. Obtaining a release from this post, he returned to Worcester, erected a trip-hammer and other iron-works near his former shop, and resumed his early avocation. But the changed condition of the times was unfavorable to the successful prosecution of his business. He remained in Worcester for a few years, where his tall, commanding figure, his martial air, his dignified address, and his military reputation commanded the respect of those who saw, as did his character the regard of those who knew him. At that time the settlement of new lands began to engage the attention of the people, and Col. Bigelow, with others, obtained the grant of a tract of 23,040 acres in Vermont, upon which he founded the town of Montpelier. He died March 31, 1790, at the comparatively early age of fifty-one years.

The six children of Col. Bigelow were: Nancy, who married Hon. Abraham Lincoln, long selectman and representative of the town, and member of the Council at the time of his death; Timothy, Jr. (H. U., 1786), a brilliant lawyer; Andrew, whose death in 1787, at the age of eighteen, was one of the causes which hastened the death of his father; Lucy, who married Luther Lawrence of Groton; Rufus, a merchant at Baltimore; and Clara, who married Tyler Bigelow, of Watertown, and was thus the mother of George Tyler Bigelow, late chief justice of the Supreme Judicial Court.

Katharine, eldest daughter of Timothy Bigelow, Jr., was married to Hon. Abbott Lawrence of Boston. Their son, Timothy Bigelow Lawrence, desirous of perpetuating by a visible token the memory of his distinguished ancestor, obtained a grant from the city in 1859 of a lot twenty feet square, embracing the hero's grave, near the western limit of the old burial-ground on the common, and this lot was forever dedicated and appropriated to the purpose. The site is enclosed with a light iron fence on a granite plinth, from which a slope of turf leads to a solid block of granite nine feet square, on which the monument is erected. The style is English Gothic of the thirteenth century; the material white Italian marble. The formal ceremonies of dedication were held on the nineteenth day of April, 1861, the eighty-sixth anniversary of Col. Lincoln's departure on news of the march of the British towards Concord, and a day itself most memorable in the annals of our country. A committee of twenty-five citizens, with Hon. Levi Lincoln as chairman, co-operated with the committee of the city government in the arrangements for the ceremony. The Worcester Light Infantry, with full ranks, specially attached to the Sixth Regiment of Volunteer Militia, had left the city two days previously, and during the dedicatory exercises here was marching through Baltimore. The attack by the "plug-uglies" of that city upon the regiment aroused the whole North to action. The other military companies were making active preparations to fol-

low their comrades. The procession which was formed, therefore, had no other escort than the veteran members of the light infantry, commanded by a former captain, D. Waldo Lincoln, and the Cadets of the Highland Military Academy. The city government and invited guests, the fire department, the Father Mathew Temperance Society, the German Turners, and citizens generally followed. The guests of the day included Col. Lawrence, Tyler Bigelow, Esq., of Watertown, nephew and son-in-law of Timothy Bigelow; George Tyler Bigelow, Jr., son of the chief justice; Rev. Andrew Bigelow, D. D., and Hon. John P. Bigelow, grandsons of Col. Bigelow. Arrived at the monument, it was formally consigned by Col. Lawrence, with appropriate remarks, to the custody of the city. The Hon. Isaac Davis, mayor of the city, received the trust in eloquent terms. The Hon. Levi Lincoln bore testimony to the praiseworthy conduct of Col. Lawrence in erecting the monument, and gave interesting personal reminiscences of the hero whom it commemorates. Col. Bigelow's relatives and the Hon. Benjamin F. Thomas followed in eloquent and patriotic strains, the startling events of the time furnishing a theme for exhortation and invocation.

Less than four months later another "Fifteenth Regiment of the Massachusetts line, commanded by Col. Charles Devens, Jr., — a regiment and a commander whose brave deeds rivaled those of their prototype, — was drawn up near the monument, to receive a flag from the ladies of Worcester, through the hands of the Hon. George F. Hoar, in response to whose appeal Col. Devens said: . . . 'This symbol shall be returned untarnished. Defeat, disaster and death may come to us, but dishonor never.'

Dr. John Green, grandson of Capt. Samuel Green of Leicester, came to Worcester about 1757 and settled on Green Hill, which is still occupied by his descendants and is owned by his great-grandson, Andrew H. Green, Esq., of New York City. Dr. John Green's oldest son, John, built the brick house on Main Street, altered and now occupied by Dr. L. B. Nichols, and his oldest son, John, a doctor like all his ancestors above named, was born and died there. Of the last-named Dr. John Green, "the good physician," we shall speak in another place. He died childless; but his name and professional skill are continued in the person of his nephew, Dr. John Green, now resident at St. Louis, Mo. Among the other children of the second Dr. John Green were Eunice, mother of George G. and the late James L. Burbank; Meltiah B.; James (father of Dr. John of St. Louis, Samuel S., librarian of the Free Public Library, and James, an attorney-at-law); and Elizabeth R., widow of Benjamin F. Heywood, who was himself for many years a leading practitioner of medicine and a prominent citizen.

William E. Green, son of the first Dr. John Green, born on Green Hill Jan. 31, 1777, where he died July 27, 1865, a lawyer by profession, was the father of William N. Green, who was for many years a trial justice here and was



judge of the police court from 1848 to 1863. Of his other children, Julia E., Dr. Samuel F. and Martin reside here at the present time.

Levi Lincoln, first, the third son of Enoch Lincoln of Hingham, graduating at Harvard College in 1772, and having studied law with Joseph Hawley of Northampton, was admitted to the Hampshire bar; but immediately removed to Worcester, where, except when absent on the public service, he passed the remainder of his days. He was clerk of courts from December, 1775, to January, 1777, and from that time judge of probate until 1781. Besides other important trusts, he was representative to the General Court and member of the State Senate, representative to Congress, for nearly four years attorney-general in President Jefferson's Cabinet, lieutenant-governor of the State in 1807 and 1808, and acting governor after the decease of Gov. Sullivan. In 1811, President Jefferson, who had with regret accepted his resignation as attorney-general, tendered him the nomination of justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, an appointment which was confirmed, but which failing vision compelled him to decline. He died April 14, 1820, aged 71 years. Mr. Lincoln married Martha Waldo, daughter of Daniel Waldo, Sr. Of his children, Levi, Jr., occupied a position in public life even more prominent than was his own; Daniel Waldo was county attorney of Cumberland County, Me. Martha, who married Hon. Leonard M. Parker of Shirley, was the mother of Mrs. Francis H. Kinnicutt and Mrs. Joseph Mason of this city. John Waldo was senator, county commissioner and sheriff, — pronounced by Judge Thomas to be, "in clear, vigorous understanding and firm will and purpose, the equal" of his brothers. Enoch was representative in Congress from Maine for seven years, — from 1819 to 1826, — and governor of that State for the three years following; and William, the historian, scholar and wit, succeeded to the paternal estate,\* which he embellished and adorned, so that "Lincoln's garden" was a favorite resort for the admirers of the beautiful things in nature and the decorations of art.

Levi Lincoln, Jr., better known as Gov. Lincoln, born Oct. 25, 1782, graduated at Cambridge in 1802, and married Penelope Winslow Sever, descendant of one of the Pilgrim fathers and granddaughter of the last Judge Chandler. Of their seven children the oldest, Levi, died Sept. 1, 1845, aged 35 years. William Sever, a graduate of Bowdoin College, was lieutenant-colonel and colonel of the 34th Massachusetts regiment in the late war; was breveted brigadier-general; has been city marshal and alderman, and for several years trustee of the Worcester Lunatic Asylum. Daniel Waldo, graduated at Harvard in 1832, was representative to the General Court in 1846, mayor of the city in 1863 and 1864, and is president of the Boston and Albany Railroad Corporation. Of his daughters, Mrs. Penelope Canfield resides in Worcester; Anne Warren, died July 24, 1846, aged 27. Capt. George Lincoln, fifth child of Gov. Lincoln, entered the regular army, and served as

\* The Henchman place, now owned in part by P. L. Moen, Esq.



first lieutenant in the closing scenes of the Seminole war. At the outbreak of the war with Mexico, he went with the first troops to the scene; and after distinguishing himself in the sanguinary battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, was killed in the battle of Buena Vista, while bearing the orders of Gen. Wool, on whose staff he was serving as assistant adjutant-general. The reports of Gen. Taylor and Gen. Wool and the letters of his associate officers bore tribute to his bravery and his manly worth. Edward Winslow Lincoln (H. U., 1839), is the youngest son of Gov. Lincoln: editor and owner of the "National Ægis" in 1847 and 1848, postmaster from 1849 to 1854, and for many years commissioner of public grounds and secretary of the Worcester County Horticultural Society,—his writings and his labors have commanded the admiration of the people.

Major Samuel Allen, who died Feb. 18, 1863, in his 74th year; Hon. Charles Allen, who died Aug. 5, 1869, aged 72 years less four days; and the venerable and Rev. George Allen who survives, had for their grandparents James and Mary Adams of Boston, the last-named being a sister of Samuel Adams the patriot. Their father, Hon. Joseph Allen, moved from Boston to Leicester in 1771, and came to Worcester on receiving the appointment of clerk of courts in 1776, an office which he laid down in 1810 against the wishes of the court. He served as representative in Congress, in the Executive Council, and was twice one of the electors of president. He was of high character and of scholarly attainments. Major Samuel Allen was for many years secretary of the Manufacturers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company. His wife was sister of Hon. Pliny Merriek; and his surviving daughter, Frances W., is wife of Samuel F. Haven, LL. D., librarian of the American Antiquarian Society. Rev. George Allen, born Feb. 1, 1792, a graduate of Yale College in 1813, was minister in Shrewsbury from 1823 to 1839; after which time he was for nearly twenty years chaplain at the State Lunatic Hospital. He has retired from his profession to find the delight in literature of which Cicero tells.\* Hon. Charles Allen, after being admitted to the bar in 1818, practised at New Braintree for six years; and then returned to Worcester, where he was law partner with Hon. John Davis until 1831. Representative and senator for several terms, he was judge of the Court of Common Pleas from 1842 to 1844, elector in 1844, representative in Congress from 1849 to 1853, and chief justice of the Superior Court from 1858 until 1868. The part which he had in the creation of the "free-soil party" of 1848 has been already described. He was one of the Titans of the Worcester bar. On the bench he was respected for his learning; and his decisions were received with ready acquiescence.

James Putnam, who was conspicuous as a Loyalist here during the exciting times preceding the Revolution, was born in Salem in 1725, graduated at Cambridge in 1746, and began the practice of the law in Worcester in 1749. Chief

\* "*Hæc studia . . . senectutem oblectant.*"

Justice Parsons said of him, "He was, I am inclined to think, the best lawyer of North America." He succeeded Jonathan Sewall as attorney-general of the province; but was compelled at the outbreak of the Revolution to take refuge in Boston. He embarked for England in 1776, where he remained until the peace of 1783. In 1784 he was appointed member of the Council and judge of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick, and retained the latter office until his death in 1789. He was married in 1754 to Elizabeth, daughter of Judge John Chandler, a sister of "the honest refugee." Of their three children, the youngest, Ebenezer, married Elizabeth, the seventeenth child of the last Judge Chandler, and died at St. John, N. B., in 1798 at the age of 35. His widow afterwards came to Worcester, where she died Jan. 18, 1820. Their oldest son, James, who died Aug. 18, 1810, was also buried in Worcester. Of their other three children, none settled here. The Putnams now resident in Worcester are descended from cognate branches of the family.

Francis Blake, the fifth son of Joseph Blake of Rutland, was born Oct. 14, 1774, and removed with his father to Hingham in 1779. He graduated at Cambridge at the age of fifteen, and was called to the bar at the age of twenty, beginning practice in his native town, where he continued to live until 1802, when he came to Worcester, where, after serving two years in the State Senate, and one year as clerk of courts, he died, Feb. 23, 1817. In court, says Judge Thomas,\* "he was 'the observed of all observers'; he won by his sweetness, and commanded by his dignity; his learning and logic convinced; his wit and humor convulsed bench, bar and jury; his passion roused to indignation or melted into tears." Mr. Blake's wife, Elizabeth Augusta, was daughter of Gardner Chandler, and granddaughter of the last Judge Chandler. Three of the children of Mr. Blake are now living in Worcester, Francis, Harrison G. O., and Elizabeth Chandler, widow of the late George T. Rice, and mother of George T. and Francis Blake Rice.

Samuel M. Burnside, son of Thomas Burnside of Northumberland, N. H., was of Scotch extraction. His father, at first a merchant of Londonderry, took an active part in the French and Indian wars, and at their close became the first settler of Northumberland. Young Burnside, graduating at Dartmouth College in 1805, began the practice of law in 1810, at Westborough, but soon removed here. He was an able lawyer, a great scholar, and deeply interested in the schools and other institutions of the town. The part which he took in framing the school system has been already described. He married a daughter of Hon. Dwight Foster of Brookfield. His handsome estate at the north-west corner of Elm and Chestnut streets is still in the possession of his children. He died July 25, 1850, aged sixty-seven years.

Alfred Dwight Foster, son of Hon. Dwight Foster of Brookfield, after graduating at Cambridge in 1819, studied in the office of his brother-in-law, Mr. Burnside, and was his law partner from 1825 to 1827. He early retired.

\* Address before the Worcester Fire Society, January, 1872.



from practice; but was always a prominent citizen. Of his children, Dwight has been judge of probate, attorney-general, and an associate justice of the Supreme Judicial Court. His widow, daughter of John W. Stiles, still occupies the homestead, next north of the Burnside estate, on Chestnut Street.

"Honest John" Davis, son of Deacon Isaac Davis of Northborough, was graduated at Yale College in 1812. He was admitted to the bar in December, 1815; came to Worcester in the following year, and was successively law partner with Gov. Lincoln, Charles Allen and Emory Washburn. He was representative in Congress from 1824 to 1834; governor of the Commonwealth in 1834 and 1835; U. S. senator from 1835 to 1841, and from 1845 to 1853. He died April 19, 1854. Gov. Davis married, March 28, 1822, Eliza, third child of Rev. Dr. Bancroft. Their five sons were: John Chandler Bancroft, who was secretary of the American Legation at London from 1849 to December, 1852, assistant secretary of State under President Grant, afterwards U. S. commissioner at Geneva and U. S. minister to Prussia, and is now judge of the Court of Claims; Hasbrouck, who studied theology and preached for a few years, served with distinction as general in the late war, and was lost by the wreck of the "Cambria," off the northern coast of Ireland, Oct. 10, 1870; George H., who has been a resident, as a merchant, in San Francisco, from 1849 until the past few years, which he has spent in Paris; Horace, now living in San Francisco, a member of Congress for the term 1877-9; and Andrew McFarland, also resident at San Francisco. Mrs. Davis, familiarly known in later life as "Aunt John," was always a potent factor in the society of Worcester. After she had passed the allotted term of three-score years and ten, she was very prominent in her exertions in behalf of the northern soldiers in the field, and led in many an undertaking for their benefit. She died in Worcester, Jan. 24, 1872, aged 80 years 11 months.

Emory Washburn, son of Joseph Washburn of Leicester, graduated at Williams College in 1817, was admitted to the bar of Berkshire in 1821, and, after practising six months at Charlemont, returned to his native home, where he remained until March, 1828, when he removed to Worcester. He represented Worcester in the lower branch of the Legislature in 1833, and in the Senate in 1841 and 1842. He was judge of the Court of Common Pleas from 1844 until December, 1847, governor of the Commonwealth in 1853, and in 1856 was appointed professor in the Cambridge Law School. Removing with his family to Cambridge, he continued to hold the professorship until his death, — March 18, 1877. He was the author of standard works upon law, and of an excellent history of his native town. He was an indefatigable worker and most highly esteemed by all with whom he was brought in contact.

Ira M. Barton, born in Oxford, graduated at Brown University in 1819 and practised in Oxford until 1834, when he removed to Worcester. He represented his native town in the Legislature in 1830, 1831 and 1832, and was State Senator in 1833, 1834. In January, 1836, he was appointed judge of pro-



bate, and held the office until 1844. He owned and occupied the Chandler house, which stood on the present site of Taylor's block, opposite the common. This house was built by Sheriff Gardner Chandler, brother of the last Judge Chandler, who fled with the other Royalists in 1775. His confiscated estate, comprising thirty acres in that neighborhood, was subsequently owned by John Bush and his sons, Jonas and Richard P. Bush, and the late Dea. Benjamin Butman. The homestead estate was sold by Deacon Butman in 1825 to Calvin Willard, sheriff of the county, who sold it to Judge Barton in 1834. Judge Barton, after retiring from his office of judge, figured prominently at the bar for many years, and until his death, July 18, 1867, gave chamber counsel to a large circle of clients, who reposed fullest confidence in his learning and judgment. Of his children, the oldest, William Sumner (B. U., 1844), is city treasurer, and the youngest living, Edmund M., is assistant librarian at the Antiquarian Hall. His youngest son, George E., served with distinction as captain in the late war, and died May 29, 1878.

Samuel Bayard Woodward was son of Samuel Woodward, of Torrington, Conn. He practised medicine with his father for a few years, when he removed to Wethersfield, where he practised for twenty-two years, and in January, 1833, came to Worcester to fill the place of superintendent of the State Lunatic Hospital, then newly erected on a site given by the town to the Commonwealth. Dr. Woodward's labors here were confined, except in the way of consultation, to the walls of the institution under his charge, but his reputation with the faculty was high and wide-spread. Retiring July 1, 1846, he removed to Northampton, where he died, Jan. 3, 1850, aged 64 years. Of his sons, Rufus (H. U., 1841) is city physician, and Samuel and Henry are well-known citizens.

Stephen Salisbury, 1st, came to Worcester from Boston in 1767, and in 1770 erected the "Salisbury Mansion," now standing on the north side of Lincoln Square. The son of Nicholas and Martha Salisbury, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Tuckerman, and died in 1829, at the age of 83. Madame Salisbury, as his widow was always called, survived him until 1851. Mr. Salisbury was a trader, doing business first in a small building east of his residence, and afterwards in the east part of his dwelling-house. His son, Stephen, born March 8, 1798, graduated at Cambridge in 1817, in the class with George Bancroft, his schoolmate, and was admitted to the bar, but never practised his profession, finding occupation in the management and improvement of the large estate inherited from his father, and in travel, study and good works. He has been president of the Worcester Bank since 1845, and was for over twenty-five years president of the Worcester County Institution for Savings. He has been President of the American Antiquarian Society since 1854, and of the Worcester Free Institute of Industrial Science from its establishment in 1866. To each of the last two institutions he has been a most liberal benefactor.

Daniel Waldo (son of the early settler, Cornelius), a merchant of Boston, after residing for a few years at Lancaster, came to Worcester in 1782. He first lived in the old hotel building, at the corner of Lincoln Square and Belmont Street. He built for his store the first brick block in Worcester, on the site now occupied by Henry W. Miller. He was the first president of the Worcester Bank, organized in 1804, but resigned the office after a few months, and was succeeded by his son, Daniel, Jr., who held it for forty-one years. A chaise, owned by the elder Waldo, is said by Lincoln to have been the first pleasure carriage in the town.\* In 1806, Daniel Waldo, Jr. built a brick dwelling-house on the site of the present Central Exchange, with quarters in the south rooms of the first floor for the Worcester Bank. In 1828 he built a more stately mansion just south of the last, which was moved back to Waldo Street in 1854, to make room for Mechanics' Hall. Mr. Waldo, on retiring from active business about the year 1821, sold his store to his two apprentices, Henry W. Miller and the late George T. Rice. The former continues the business at the same place. Mr. Waldo died July 9, 1845, at the age of 82 years. He was never married, but his name is perpetuated as a Christian name by the descendants of his cousin, the late Gov. Lincoln.

Isaiah Thomas, the youngest son of Moses Thomas of Boston, was born Jan. 19, 1749. When he was three years old his father died, leaving his family in destitute circumstances. Before he had reached the age of seven years young Thomas was bound apprentice to Zechariah Fowle of Boston, a printer in a small way; and the printing-office, with a dictionary and a Bible as its only library, supplemented, however, with a few books purchased from the scanty "perquisites" falling to him and a few others loaned by interested friends, was his only school and college; and well did it educate him. Before he had finished his apprenticeship the spirit of resistance to the exactions of the British government had begun to prevail, and he carried this spirit with him to Halifax, where he went at the age of seventeen, finding employment in the office of the "Halifax Gazette." The management of this sheet was entrusted to him by the easy-going proprietor; but the appearance of several articles in its columns against the stamp act, and the imitation, by the Halifax paper, of a copy of the "Philadelphia Journal," which came dressed in mourning and announcing its own decease from a complaint called the stamp act, made the loyal old town too hot for the young Whig, and in March, 1767, he repaired to Portsmouth, N. H. After trying his fortunes there and at Wilmington, N. C., and Charleston, S. C., he returned to Boston in 1770. On the 17th of July in

\* Even down to a few years before Worcester became a city, the only private carriages drawn by two horses, and having a coachman, were those of Madame Salisbury, Gov. Lincoln and the Waldo family. Mr. Charles Nason, now mail-agent at the Union Station, was, for many years, coachman for the Waldos. A receipt, dated July 17, 1788, for £55 8s., given by Benjamin Willard to Isaiah Thomas, for "a fall-back Chaise made by Nathaniel Prentice of Cambridge and rec'd above twelve months since," seems to militate against the claim above made in behalf of Mr. Waldo. It was, perhaps, Cornelius Waldo who first indulged himself in the luxury.



that year appeared the first or sample number of the "Massachusetts Spy," subscriptions for which would be "taken in by Zechariah Fowle, printer, in Back street, and by Isaiah Thomas, printer, in School-house lane near the Latin School." His copartnership with Fowle lasted but for three months, and after a somewhat irregular appearance during the winter, the paper reappeared as a weekly March 7, 1771. The paper, at first neutral in its professions, was very soon of a pronounced Whig complexion, and Mr. Thomas received the co-operation of some of the ablest writers and thinkers of that school of politics. The power of the government was exerted to crush him in vain. Threats and legal summonses were alike disregarded. The venerable James Otis, though he had withdrawn from active practice, tendered the offer of his services if they should be needed. John Hancock, under date of April 4, 1775, addressed him as the "supporter of the rights and liberties of mankind." At this juncture the Whigs of Worcester made overtures for him to publish a newspaper here, and a few days before the battle of Lexington he privately packed up a press and type, which on a dark night were taken across the river to Charlestown, under the direction of Dr. Warren and Col. Timothy Bigelow. From Charlestown they were removed to Worcester, and set up in the basement of Col. Bigelow's house. Mr. Thomas repaired to Lexington on the 19th of April, and, musket in hand, bore a part in the repulse of the British soldiery. The next day found him in Worcester, and on the 3d of May his paper reappeared, — the first printing done in any inland town of New England. This number contained his own account of the battle of Lexington, of which he might have well said: "*Quæque ipse vidi et quorum pars magna fui.*" The circumstances of the removal to Worcester as well as the relations of his paper to the Provincial Congress are set forth in the following letter to a "delegate," of which the original is in the possession of the American Antiquarian Society: —

" WORCESTER, October 2, 1775.

" SIR, — I have the honor of receiving two letters from you which you sent by Order of the Hon. House, desiring me to send no more papers to them on account of the Colony. In your last, Sir, you mention 'that it is thought highly improper to continue the papers if they were to be paid for; but that it was possible you had been misinformed and that the Printers intended those papers as a present, as you till of late supposed.' I will agreeable to your request, inform you of the true state of the matter and humbly submit it to consideration.

" A few days before the late memorable Battle of Lexington, I applied at Concord, to a member of the Hon. Delagates, then sitting in Congress, among whom was the Hon President, to ask their opinion, if it was not proper, as public matters then were, for me to remove my Printing Office out of Boston, as I found the Liberty of the Press, in that devoted Capital, daily declining and myself growing more and more obnoxious to the Enemies of our once happy Constitution, and more particularly so to our then *Military Masters* (some of whom had carried their Resentment so far, as *Twice* to endeavor to assassinate me, for no other reason, as I humbly conceive, than doing the



little in my power, in the way of my Profession, towards supporting the Rights and Privileges of my countrymen.) The Hon. Gentlemen informed me that they thought it was *highly requisite* I should *immediately* remove myself and printing materials out of Boston, as in a few days it might be too late. I accordingly went and, as soon as could be, packed up my Press and types, and in the dead of night *stole* them out of town. Two nights after this the Troops went to Lexington, and the next evening Boston was entirely shut up:—I escaped myself the day of the battle and left everything my tools excepted behind me. Some of the delegates of the Hon. Congress, in a day or two after desired me to get my Press ready for Printing as they had several things to be done. I informed them of my *unfortunate circumstances at that time*—fleeing from Boston, without any money to purchase stock; (I had just labored through another year with my paper, and it being the custom for subscribers to pay yearly, all that I should at *that time have possessed*, was then, *and is now*, in the hands of my numerous subscribers now scattered throughout the Continent, to the amount of above Three Thousand Dollars.) The Hon. Committee of Supplies were so kind as to order me paper for a present supply, as something was due to me from the Province, and I was requested immediately to continue the publication of the Massachusetts Spy.

“In a few days after this, I was ordered with my tools to Concord, thither I directly went myself, but before my tools could possibly arrive, the Congress had adjourned to Watertown, and it was told me by several of that honorable body, that it was best for me to continue for the present at Worcester. As none of the Boston printers then published a paper, or were like to do it, myself excepted, I was desired by many gentlemen, both in the Congress, the different committees, and the army, to forward mine to them; and several who I imagined knew my circumstances, told me I should send a number to the Congress and to the head Quarters:—I immediately Established a Post to the army to bring me intelligence, and carry my Papers to the Hon. Congress and the army. As matters were then in much disorder, together with my residing at such a distance, added to the desire I ever have had of doing my Country *all the service in my power*, I did what my superiors bade, without ever inquiring—*Who was to reward me?*—And as it was thought I could serve my country best in the capacity of a Printer, I went on publishing my paper, although *at that time*, I had not 200 subscribers exclusive of what I sent to the Hon. Congress, the Committees and Army. I never meant to make any *great* profit by the papers I have sent, and have only charged *one Penny* for each paper, which is *hardly* what it cost me for the Stock and Labor, exclusive of any *emolument*. If the Hon. House, after this detail (for the length of which I humbly crave your forgiveness, as I thought it best to be particular) should think I was *too forward* and do *not merit any pay*, either for the papers, or any part of the Postage, I shall content myself with their determination.

“Your candor Sir will excuse the inaccuracies of this Letter, wrote in haste, as I have just now an opportunity of transmitting it to you.

“I have the honor to be

“your obliged,

“humble servant,

“ISA. THOMAS.

“P. S.

“I have sent weekly, since my publishing in this place 100 papers to the Hon. Congress while they sat, and afterwards the same number to the Hon House—80 to

the Head Quarters in Cambridge — 60 to Headquarters in Roxbury — 16 to the Hon Council, 16 to the Committee of Supplies, and 16 to the Committee of Safety. In the whole 288 papers, weekly for which I have only charged 6s per week postage.

"288 papers for twenty weeks at 1d each and 6d per week postage £31.—10.

"I. T."

A post-office was established in the town for the first time, Nov. 15, 1775, Mr. Thomas receiving the commission of postmaster from Benjamin Franklin, and retaining it until 1801. Mr. Thomas established a newspaper, the "Essex Gazette," and a printing-office at Newburyport in 1773, a newspaper, the "Farmer's Journal," at Brookfield, and printing-offices in other places. At one time, under his own direction or that of his partners, sixteen presses were in constant motion; three newspapers and one monthly magazine were issued; a paper-mill, established by himself at Quinsigamond Village in the south-east part of this town, and a book-bindery were in operation; and five bookstores were maintained in this State and one each in New Hampshire, New York and Maryland. He was also a partner of Dr. Joseph Trumbull in a drug-store here in 1780, and for some time after.

As Mr. Thomas had opposed the stamp act as a restraint upon the liberty of the press, he naturally chafed under an act of our own Legislature in 1785, imposing a tax on advertisements. An old receipt book, now in the present writer's possession, has the following in the handwriting of the great printer:—

"*Worcester, Decr. 16th, 1785. Rec'd of Isaiah Thomas the sum of Three pounds in full for Duty on advertisements from the first of August to the 24th Nov'r inclusive.*

"CALEB AMMIDOWN, Collector of Excise Duties, &c.

"N. B. This is the first duty I ever paid Government for Liberty of Printing a news-paper — the first shackle laid on the Press since Independence, and laid on by the Legislature of Massachusetts only ! ! !"

Mr. Thomas retired from active business in the year 1802, being succeeded by his only son, Isaiah, Jr. His still active mind could not remain unemployed. He compiled and published an exhaustive "History of Printing" in two octavo volumes (recently reprinted by the American Antiquarian Society), which received the commendation of all who read it. With rare foresight he conceived the idea of establishing an institution which should embrace the whole country and which, preserving the history of the past and the literature of the present, should hand them down to future time. He became the founder of the American Antiquarian Society, which he endowed with his valuable collection of books, pamphlets and newspapers, with a large lot of land, a brick building for the library and legacies to help maintain it. He was its president for nineteen years, until his death April 4, 1831.

Mr. Thomas gave the land for the brick court-house, and contributed largely to the erection of a stone bridge at Lincoln Square. In 1806, he made

a street and gave it to the town; it was christened with military and other ceremonies as Thomas Street. Dartmouth College gave him the degree of Master of Arts in 1814, and Alleghany College that of Doctor of Laws in 1818. He was a justice of the Court of Sessions from February 1812, to June, 1814. A memoir of his life, by his grandson Judge Thomas, has been published.

Mr. Thomas was three times married. By his first wife, Mary Dill of Bermuda, he had two children, Mary Anne and Isaiah. The latter succeeded his father in business, and removed to Boston probably in the fall of 1814. He had previously married Mary Weld of Boston, by whom he had eleven children. Of these the eldest, Mary Rebecca, married the late Judge Pliny Merrick. The youngest, and the last survivor, received a name which combined that of two men of the Revolutionary period whose vocations were the same and whose characters were strikingly similar; Benjamin Franklin Thomas, born Feb. 12, 1813, removed to Worcester with his mother at the age of six years. He was graduated at Brown University in 1830, was admitted to the Worcester bar in 1833, was judge of probate from 1844 to 1848, judge of the Supreme Judicial Court from 1853 to 1859, and, having removed to Jamaica Plain, was chosen representative to Congress in 1861, where he served for one term. He afterwards moved into the city of Boston, and died at his country seat on the Beverly shore Sept. 27, 1878. He was a scholar, an orator and a gentleman, all in the highest degree.

Isaiah Thomas was buried in the only tomb ever erected in the Mechanic Street burial-ground, a solid structure of hewn granite blocks erected by himself in 1817. The extension of Foster Street through this burial-ground, rendered the removal of the tomb necessary, and it was taken down in May, 1878, and set up in the Rural Cemetery. The whole structure was found to be in good order, and its contents appeared to have been undisturbed since the last interment took place. Three sides of the floor are occupied by brick receptacles, one at each side, and one at the rear, designed to receive coffins, each covered by a slate-stone slab inscribed with an epitaph. At the rear end are two upright tablets: one of slate-stone, quite elaborately sculptured on its semi-circular top with wreaths and mortuary emblems; the other of white marble. Both were probably originally erected over the graves in Mr. Thomas's lot, which was the second lot east of the Mechanic Street gateway to the cemetery. \*

\* The inscriptions on the several slabs are as follows:—

"Isaiah Thomas LL. D., author of the History of Printing, founder and first President of the American Antiquarian Society. Ardently attached to the Independence of His Country, his efforts were identified with its cause, and through life his Press contributed largely to the policy and literature of his age. Born Jan. 30th, 1749; died April 4th, 1831; aged 82."

"Mrs. Mary Thomas, consort of Isaiah Thomas. Died Nov. 16th, 1818. *Æt.* 67 yrs. 5 mos."

"Mrs. Eliza T. Knox, died Dec 23d, 1825, aged 41."

"A sincere Christian triumphs o'er the tomb. Beneath this stone are the remains of Mrs.





Levi Lincoln



Public services, instituted by the city government, incident to the re-interment of the remains of Mr. Thomas, took place on Monday, June 24, 1878, with impressive ceremonies. Mr. Thomas was a prominent Freemason, and that organization took a conspicuous part in the exercises of the day. A procession, under the marshalship of Gen. Josiah Pickett, including the Worcester County Commandery of Knights Templar, the Morning Star Lodge, of which Mr. Thomas was at one time Master, the Grand Chapter and Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and other Masonic bodies, escorted to Mechanics' Hall Judge Thomas and family, the Mayor and city government, the American Antiquarian Society, the Franklin Typographical Society of Boston, and other invited guests. At the hall prayer was offered by Rev. Edward H. Hall, pastor of the First Unitarian Church, which Mr. Thomas was influential in forming. His Honor, Charles B. Pratt, mayor, addressed the large assembly in words fitting the occasion. The Hon. Stephen Salisbury, president of the American Antiquarian Society, bore a fitting tribute of praise to its wise, liberal and far-sighted founder, and set forth the good work which the society has accomplished. The Hon. John D. Baldwin, senior editor and publisher of the "Massachusetts Spy" (and of the daily edition from which it is now compiled), reviewed the history of Mr. Thomas and his newspaper. H. O. Houghton, Esq., of the Riverside Press at Cambridge (a son-in-law of William Manning, who was one of Mr. Thomas's apprentices), Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, president of the Massachusetts Genealogical Society, and Hon. Charles W. Slack of Boston, made appropriate remarks; and letters from several gentlemen of distinction in other cities, expressing their regret at being unable to attend the exercises, were read by the mayor. The procession, forming again, moved to the cemetery, and the re-interment took place with masonic ceremonies.

Pliny Merrick, born at Brookfield, Aug. 2, 1794, the son of Hon. Pliny Merrick of that town, was graduated at Harvard College in 1814. He was admitted to the Worcester bar in 1817, and practised at Worcester, Charlton, Swansea and Taunton until June, 1824, when he returned to Worcester. He was county attorney from July, 1824, until May, 1832, when he was appointed Rebecca Fowle, mother of Mrs. Mary Thomas. Born in Boston, Dec. 27th, 1727. Died July 17th, 1803.

"Life's theatre as yet is shut, and death,  
Strong death alone can heave the massy bar,  
This gross impediment of clay remove,  
And make us, embryos of existence, free."

"In memory of Mrs. Fidelity Blackman, born on Long Island, aged 80; mother of Isaiah Thomas. Died Jan. 14th, 1798."

Besides those, there is resting on the slab at the rear of the tomb, an unenclosed coffin, which is said to contain the remains of Mrs. Hemmenway, a daughter of Isaiah Thomas.

The Mrs. Knox here interred, is said by Rev. George Allen to have been the widow of General Knox of Revolutionary fame, first Secretary of War in the cabinet of George Washington.

The opening of the tomb was witnessed by the Mayor, the Committee of the City Council on the removal of the bodies from the cemetery and several members of the Worcester Society of Antiquity.



district attorney, and held the latter office until 1843, when he was made judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He resigned the latter office in 1848, but was reappointed in 1850, and was promoted to the bench of the Supreme Judicial Court in 1853. He represented Worcester in both branches of the Legislature, and was for two years president of the Worcester and Nashua Railroad. His name is prominent among those who have given a high character to the Worcester bar. He removed to Boston in 1855, and died there Jan. 31, 1867.

Charles Devens was born at Charlestown, April 4, 1820, and graduated at Harvard College in 1838. He practised law in Franklin County until 1849, when he was appointed United States marshal for the district of Massachusetts by President Taylor. He resigned the office in the spring of 1853, and in May of the following year resumed the practice of law at Worcester, which is still his lawful home. On the night of April 20, 1861, he left Worcester as major commanding the 3d battalion of rifles, with whom he served until July 11, when he returned to take command of the 15th Massachusetts regiment of volunteers, the first three years' regiment raised in the county. In April, 1862, he was promoted to be brigadier-general, and for the rest of the war did gallant and brilliant service. He was wounded at Ball's Bluff, Fair Oaks, Chancellorsville and Cold Harbor. He was commissioned major-general by brevet for gallantry and good conduct at the capture of Richmond, where the troops of his division were the first to occupy the enemy's works. He was mustered out in June, 1866. In April, 1867, he was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of this Commonwealth, and in October, 1873, an associate justice of the Supreme Judicial Court. In March, 1877, he was called to the cabinet of President Hayes as attorney-general of the United States, and now holds that position.

George F. Hoar, son of Hon. Samuel Hoar, was born at Concord, Aug. 29, 1826, and graduated at Harvard College in 1846. He was admitted to the Worcester bar in 1849, was representative in 1852, and senator in 1857. He represented this district in Congress from 1869 to 1877, when he was chosen United States Senator.

Francis H. Dewey, son of Hon. Charles A. Dewey, was born at Northampton, July 12, 1821, and was graduated at Williams College in 1840. He began the practice of law here in 1843, and was partner with Hon. Emory Washburn for one year, and with Hon. Hartley Williams (now justice of the Central District Court) from 1850 until 1869, when he was appointed judge of the Superior Court, which position he still holds. He was State Senator in 1856 and 1869.

Adin Thayer, son of Caleb Thayer of Mendon, was admitted to the bar in 1854. He was one of the original "freesoilers," and has ever been conspicuous in the politics of the city, county and State. He has been trial justice, collector of internal revenue and State Senator, and was appointed Judge of Probate to succeed the late Judge Chapin.

Henry Chapin, the second mayor of Worcester, held the office for two terms,

from April, 1849, to April, 1851; and on the death of Mayor Blake in December, 1870, held the office *ad interim* until February, 1871. Mr. Chapin was son of Elisha Chapin of Upton; was graduated at Brown University in 1835, and began the practice of law here in 1838. He practised for a few years in Uxbridge, but returned here in 1846, and in 1849 was appointed commissioner of insolvency. He represented Uxbridge in the Legislature of 1845, and Worcester in the Constitutional Convention of 1853. In 1858 he was appointed judge of the Court of Probate and Insolvency, and held the office until his death, Oct. 13, 1878, at the age of sixty-seven years five months. He received the honorary degree of LL. D. from his *alma mater*. Judge Chapin enjoyed the confidence of his clients and his wards in the Court of Probate.

Peter C. Bacon was the third mayor, entering upon his office in April, 1851. Under a revision of the city charter, the next municipal year was made to begin with January, 1852, and Mr. Bacon served his second term in that year. He was born in Dudley, Nov. 11, 1804; the son of Jephthah Bacon; was graduated at Brown University in 1827, and practised law in Oxford until Jan. 1, 1844, when he removed to Worcester, where he continues in practice, the honored and esteemed Nestor of the bar of this county. He represented the city in the Legislature of 1848, was made a doctor of laws by Brown University in 1857, and, on the re-enactment of the United States bankrupt law in 1867, he was appointed register of bankruptcy, an office which he still holds, for the settlement of the many cases which accumulated prior to the repeal of the law.

John S. C. Knowlton, fourth mayor, held the office in 1853 and 1854. Mr. Knowlton, who came to Worcester from Lowell, conducted the "National Republican," and its successor, the "Worcester Palladium," from Jan. 1, 1834, until his death, July 1, 1871. He was State Senator in 1852, and was elected for 1853, but resigned to become mayor. He was appointed high sheriff in 1857, and served until his death. He was an able writer, and a man of great firmness of character, whom the good respected and the bad feared.

George W. Richardson, fifth mayor, served in 1855 and 1857. He is the son of John Richardson of Boston, deceased; was graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1829, and began the practice of law in Worcester in 1834. He served as aid on the staff of Gov. Davis, and in 1853 was appointed by Gov. Clifford sheriff of the county, holding the office for four years. He was president of the City Bank from its establishment in 1854 until the summer of 1878. He is residing at present at St. John, N. B.

The sixth mayor, Isaac Davis, son of Phineas Davis, was born at Northborough, June 2, 1799; graduated at Brown University in 1822; studied law with his uncle, Gov. Davis, and was admitted to the bar in 1825. He was the first chief engineer of the fire department on its establishment in 1835; member of the Executive Council in 1851-2; State Senator in 1854; mayor in 1856, 1858 and in 1861; and was president of Worcester Academy for forty years from its foundation in 1834. He has been a director of the Quinsigamond



Bank from its incorporation in 1833, and was its president from 1836 to 1842, and from 1854 to 1879. He received the degree of LL. D. from Columbia College, Washington, in 1846, and from Brown University in 1860. He has filled a large number of other offices and places of trust, nearly all of which he has recently resigned.

Alexander H. Bullock was the seventh mayor of the city, serving in the year 1859. He was born at Royalston, March 2, 1816; the son of Rufus Bullock; was graduated at Amherst College in 1836, and was admitted to the bar in 1841. In the same year, he served as aid upon the staff of Gov. Davis. He served for ten terms as representative in the Legislature, the first in 1844, and the last six from 1860 to 1865, inclusive, being Speaker of the House for the last four years of his service. He was State Senator in 1849, and Judge of Insolvency from 1856 to 1858. In 1866 he was elected Governor of the Commonwealth, and was re-elected in 1867 and 1868. Gov. Bullock has always been an able and a popular speaker. For several years past, his services as an orator have been in constant demand, and his orations before colleges, literary societies and other assemblies would fill a large volume. The sound logic, originality of thought and pureness of diction by which they are characterized entitle them to preservation for posterity.

William W. Rice, son of Rev. Benjamin Rice of Deerfield, was born March 7, 1826, and graduated at Bowdoin College in 1846. He was admitted to the bar in 1854, and succeeded Gov. Bullock as Judge of Insolvency in 1858, serving for a few months until the courts of Probate and Insolvency were united. He served as the eighth mayor of the city in 1860. He was representative to the General Court in 1875, and was elected representative to Congress in the autumn of 1876, and again in 1878.

P. Emory Aldrich, the ninth mayor, a native of New Salem, in this State, was admitted to the bar in 1846. He practised first at Petersham, but removed to Barre in December of that year, where he lived until 1854, when he came to this city. In January, 1855, he formed a partnership with Hon. Peter C. Bacon, which continued until his elevation to the bench of the Superior Court in 1873. He represented Barre in the Constitutional Convention of 1853, and Worcester in the Legislatures of 1866 and 1867; was district-attorney for the middle district from 1853 to 1855, and from 1857 to 1866, and was mayor in 1862. He has written some able addresses upon subjects of general interest, and continues to hold the office of judge of the Superior Court.

The succeeding mayors have been:—

10th.—Daniel Waldo Lincoln (1863, 1864) son of Governor Lincoln, born Jan. 16, 1813, graduated at Harvard College in 1831, was admitted to the bar in 1834. He early devoted himself to horticulture, but represented the town in the Legislature of 1846. On the union of the Boston and Worcester and Western Railroad corporations in 1867, he became vice-president of the new company, the Boston and Albany Railroad, and has been its president since



1876. During his term of office the long-needed increase in the water-supply of the city was effected, by constructing the Worcester water-works from Lynde Brook in Leicester.

11th.—Phineas Ball (1865) was born at Boylston, Jan. 18, 1824. He studied surveying with an uncle in Woonsocket, and in 1841 began the practice of field-surveying in Boylston and its neighborhood. In August, 1846, he moved to Worcester, and studied drawing in the office of Wm. Brown, architect. In 1847 he formed a partnership with C. K. Kirby, architect, which connection lasted but eight months. He was engaged in building the railroad to Nashua in 1847 and 1848, and in April, 1849, formed a partnership with Elbridge Boyden, architect, which continued eleven years. Among the buildings built under direction of the firm were the Taunton Hospital for the Insane, Mechanics' Hall and the jails at Greenfield and Fitchburg. In 1848 he made a plan for the Bell Pond aqueduct, in 1849 set grades for the first block-paving put down in the city, and in 1850 laid the first sewer. In 1854 he made the first surveys for increasing the water-supply, under direction of M. B. Inches, of Boston; was water commissioner from February, 1863, to April, 1867, and city engineer from that date to September, 1872; constructed the Worcester water-works in 1864, and began the system of sewers in 1867. In the autumn of 1872 he acted as consulting engineer in the matter of the Miller's River nuisance in Cambridge and Somerville, and in the following spring went to Springfield as chief engineer of the water-works there, which he built in 1874 and 1875. He has originated several patented devices connected with water-supply, and those which he invented with Benaiah Fitts led to the establishment, in 1868, of the Union Water-Meter Company of this city.

12th.—James B. Blake (1866 to 1870, inclusive) was the son of James Blake of Boston, where he was born June 19, 1827. Graduating from "Chauncy Hall School," he studied engineering with the firm of Blake & Darracott, and came to Worcester in their service, they being contractors for the gas-works in this city. He was appointed agent of the Worcester Gas-Light Company in January, 1852, and superintendent of their works, and held that position for the remainder of his life. On entering upon the office of mayor, he was evidently impressed with the fact that not only had the city outgrown its conveniences, but also that a greater future was in store, and that extensive improvements were required to be promptly made; not only to promote its growth, but also to secure the health and comfort of the inhabitants. Though all the improvements which took place during his administration may not have originated in his own mind, yet by the readiness with which he adopted such as his judgment approved, and by the energy and tact with which he set them in execution, he seemed to make them his own ideas. Among these were the enlargement of the water-works, the elaborate and admirable system of sewerage, the extension of the sidewalks into scores of streets where they were sadly needed, the idea of the soldiers' monument, and the magnificence of the high-

school building. On the evening of Friday, Dec. 16, 1870, — just after he had been elected to a sixth term of his office of mayor, — he visited the gas-works to inspect some repairs which had been made during his brief absence from the city. Approaching the purifying-house with the foreman, who carried a lantern, the gas which had escaped from a stop-cock, accidentally left open, exploding, demolished the building and severely burned Mr. Blake and his attendant. He died at his residence on Sunday morning, about thirty-six hours after the accident. The bells of the city were tolled from 12 to 1 o'clock. Public obsequies, under direction of the city government, were held at Mechanics' Hall on the Thursday following. Seven former mayors, with John C. Mason, Esq., officiated as pall-bearers. Addresses were made by Rev. Edward E. Hale of Boston, who had been his former pastor at the Church of the Unity here, and by Hon. Alexander H. Bullock. A long procession accompanied his remains to the Rural Cemetery, where a monument to his memory has since been erected, by order of the city government.

13th.—Edward Earle, the son of Timothy Earle of Leicester, came to Worcester in 1832, and engaged in the wholesale flour business with his cousin, Robert Earle. In 1835 he entered into the iron business with Joseph Pratt, continuing until 1848. He then became partner with his half-brother, Timothy K. Earle, in the manufacture of card-clothing. He represented the Legislature in 1851, was alderman in 1853, and mayor in 1871. He was a prominent member of the Indian Peace Commission, constituted by President Grant, and for several years a member of the State Board of Charities, being chairman for some time previous to his death, which occurred May 19, 1877, at the age of 66 years.

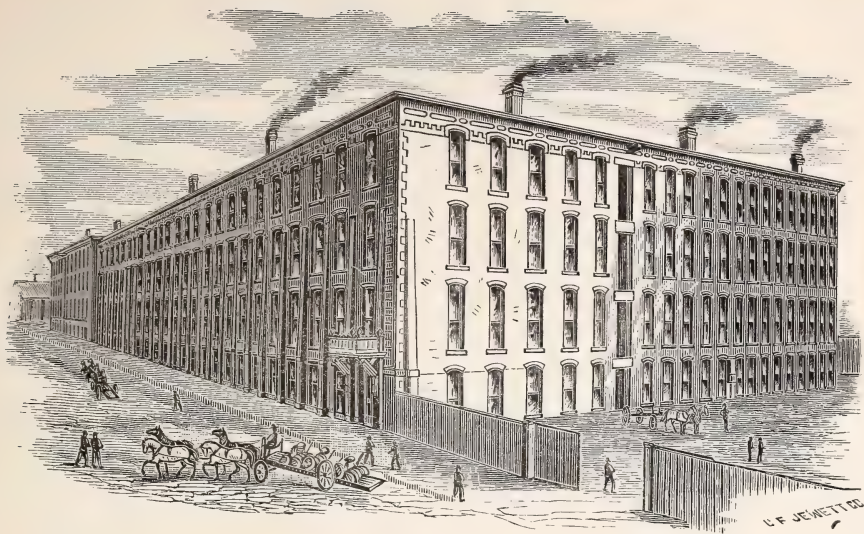
14th. George F. Verry, born in Mendon, July 14, 1826, was admitted to the bar Sept. 8, 1851, and is senior member of the firm of Verry & Gaskell, enjoying a large and lucrative practice. He was mayor in 1872, and State Senator in 1874 and 1875.

15th. Clark Jillson, a native of Whitingham, Vt., was clerk of the Police Court and its successor, the Municipal Court, from 1858 to July, 1871, when he was appointed judge of the First District Court of Southern Worcester. He was mayor in 1873, 1875 and 1876. He is a prominent member of the Society of Antiquity, and has one of the most valuable private collections of rare old books, especially of Bibles, in the city.

16th. Edward L. Davis, second son of Hon. Isaac Davis, was born April 22, 1834, and graduated at Brown University in 1854. Was mayor in 1874, and State Senator in 1876. Mr. Davis has been for several years treasurer of the Washburn Iron Company, having left the bar, to which he was admitted in 1857. He has succeeded his father as President of the Quinsigamond National Bank and in other offices of trust.

17th. Charles B. Pratt is now (1879) in his third year of service as mayor. Mr. Pratt was born at Lancaster, Feb. 14, 1824. His early life was devoted





AMES PLOW COMPANY'S BUILDING, WORCESTER, MASS.



SALISBURY BUILDING, WORCESTER, MASS.





to the business of submarine explorations, in which connection he engaged in some important undertakings. He established his home at Worcester in 1840. He represented the city in the Legislature in 1859, was a member of the Common Council 1856, 1857, and 1859, and an alderman in 1861-3, resigning in the last year to accept the office of city marshal under Mayor Lincoln. Mr. Pratt has for several years been president of the Worcester Agricultural Society, and is president of the First National Fire Insurance Company.

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### CHAPTER XIII.

BURIAL PLACES AND CEMETERIES — MILITARY COMPANIES — A POLITICAL SQUABBLE — GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC — LIBRARIES — MECHANICS' ASSOCIATION — WORCESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY — WATER-WORKS — BREAKAGE OF A RESERVOIR — FIRE DEPARTMENT — TELEGRAPHIC ALARM — CITY HOSPITAL — POOR FARM — POLICE — ASYLUM FOR INSANE — RETREATS AND HOMES — BANKS — BOARD OF TRADE — SECRET SOCIETIES.

THE civil, military, and municipal institutions of Worcester are next to be considered.

The earliest burial-place in the town was in a grove of oaks, at the corner of Summer and Thomas streets. Twenty-eight persons were buried here between 1717 and the establishment of the graveyard on the common, in 1730. The Mechanic Street burying-ground was set apart from the ministerial land by vote of the town in 1784. The one at "Pine Meadow" was bought and laid out in 1828. In 1834 the town purchased two other tracts for public cemeteries. Of these, one of six acres was on "Raccoon Plain" (on the north side of Cambridge Street, west of the Norwich Railroad), and the other, of a little more than twenty-two acres, was on the south side of Pleasant Street, extending from Newton Street to a point equidistant between Mason and Bellevue streets. The latter was sold in 1842, and the former in 1863. Fifty years ago, the village churchyards of New England were neglected, uninviting spots. A desire for a better state of things,—for a resting-place which should be permanent, where members of the same family might be laid side by side, to remain unmolested by man forever,—led several citizens of this town to form the "Rural Cemetery Association," which was incorporated Feb. 23, 1838, and authorized to receive the gift of nine acres of land on Grove Street, which Daniel Waldo had purchased for the purpose. Later purchases have enlarged the cemetery to about fifty acres.

In 1851 fifty-three acres, southward from New Worcester, were bought by the city for \$1,850, and laid out as "Hope Cemetery." Hon. Levi Lincoln, the first president of the Rural Cemetery Association, was first chairman of

the trustees of the new cemetery, which now comprises sixty-seven acres. About nineteen hundred lots had been sold at the close of last year, and the good taste of the trustees is making the grounds picturesque and attractive.

The Worcester [heavy] Artillery was formed about the year 1783, its first captain being Maj. William Treadwell, one of the most gallant officers of the army of the Revolution. Its two guns were kept in the gun-house upon the common; but gun-house and company ceased to exist at nearly the same time, about the year 1840.

The Worcester Rifle Corps existed from 1823 to 1835.

Besides the volunteer companies, there were also companies of militia, under the laws which prevailed during the first part of this century. In 1836, besides the volunteer company of infantry and one of artillery, there were two large companies of militia, with a force of more than two hundred men.

One of the oldest military organizations in the State is the Worcester Light Infantry, which was chartered in 1804, and paraded for the first time in May of that year, under the command of Capt. Levi Thaxter.

The memorable political campaign of 1840, with its log-cabins and hard-cider, its "Tippecanoe and Tyler too," is not forgotten by anybody who was then above six or eight years of age. Both Whigs and Democrats began, early in spring, to prepare for a political celebration of the Fourth of July, and each party desired the services of the Light Infantry, the only military company in the town, as an escort. Col. John W. Lincoln, anticipating formal action by the Whigs, gave a verbal invitation to the commander, Capt. D. Waldo Lincoln, to perform the service, but this was followed in a few days by a written invitation from Levi A. Dowley, chairman of a regularly appointed Democratic committee. The communication of these two invitations to the company caused an explosion as if a blazing brand had been thrown into a powder magazine.\* An earnest debate followed, and it was decided by a strict party vote, to accept the invitation of the Democrats. The Whig members declared that they would never perform another day's duty, and their Whig commander, although himself retaining the command until after the Fourth of July, procured their discharge. This rupture in the company was the immediate cause of the formation of the Worcester Guards, and for several years the infantry recruited their ranks from the Democrats, while none but Whigs enlisted in the Guards. Worcester, after all, was not the scene of the rival celebrations. They were transferred to Barre, where the Whigs, with Daniel Webster for orator, and a Fitchburg company for escort; and the Democrats, escorted by the Worcester Light Infantry with its Whig captain, and having George Bancroft for orator, met upon the common,—one of the most memorable gatherings ever assembled in the county.

The outbreak of the civil war, in 1861, found the light infantry ready for duty. Its departure and experience as the left-flank company of the sixth

\* The account of this episode is gathered from MSS. by Hon. D. Waldo Lincoln.



regiment, have been described in the foregoing pages. The present officers of the company are :—F. Linus Child, captain ; Winslow S. Lincoln and Frank H. Sprague, lieutenants.

Naturally enough, the company formed here in 1840, first took the name of "Harrison Guards," which in a few years was changed to Worcester Guards, and again, a few years later, to Worcester City Guards. A few years previous to the war, the company were armed with rifles, and the third battalion of rifles was organized, which followed close upon the light infantry to the scene of war. Edwin R. Shumway is the present captain, and William J. Stamp and George H. Cleveland, lieutenants.

In the spring of 1869 a section or platoon of light artillery, with two guns, was organized here and designated as the Fifth Battery. Its appearance, under Capt. Henry W. Reed, at the September muster, was so creditable that authority was given to increase its force to a full battery of four guns, and it was re-organized as such in November of the same year. It was unattached until 1876, when a battalion was formed from this company and one in Lawrence, when the Worcester company took the designation of Battery B. A re-organization of the militia during the winter of 1878 left the company again unattached. John S. Rice was captain until July, 1876, when he was succeeded by Capt. George L. Allen, the present commander. This battery has always stood at the head of similar organizations, which has been due in part to the fitness of its officers and the character of the men, and in part to their long service together.

The "Worcester Continentals" were organized in the spring of 1876, with a view to taking part in the celebration of the Fourth of July. They adopted the costume of the officers of the Continental army, and large numbers joined their ranks. Their parades are always attractive, and their annual excursions are very pleasant. The Legislature of 1879 gave them a charter, and they are now organized as a battalion. W. S. B. Hopkins, who has been the commander from the start, is Lieut. Colonel ; E. A. Wood, Adjutant ; W. F. Pond, Quartermaster ; F. H. Kelley, Surgeon. The captains are : E. J. Russell, Nathaniel Paine, W. F. Ewell, and F. A. Leland.

The local Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, organized April 13, 1867, is the largest, and was the tenth in the order of organization, in this Commonwealth. It occupies Brinley Hall, which was for many years the favorite place for lectures, balls and other gatherings. It has a carefully guarded relief fund, to which additions are annually made by the exertions of the members through dramatic representations, fairs, or by other means. The Post has the warmest sympathy of the community, who readily respond at any time to its calls for assistance made in this agreeable form.

A "Social Library" was formed here in 1793, but little is now known of its history.

A library was established for the circulation of books by the Worcester

County Athenæum, an association incorporated March 12, 1830. Rev. George Allen was president; Frederick W. Paine, treasurer, and William Lincoln, secretary. The books were stored in a room of the Antiquarian Hall, and could be taken only by shareholders. The association became extinct after some eight or ten years, and their collection became blended with that of the Antiquarian Society.

The Worcester Lyceum\* was formed Nov. 4, 1829, for mutual instruction and improvement. Jonathan Going was the first president, and Anthony Chase, secretary. A circulating library was soon established, which was accessible to all who purchased tickets to the annual course of lectures. The lyceum lectures are still maintained by the Worcester Lyceum and Natural History Association. The library has been merged in the Free Public Library of Worcester.

Dr. John Green,† on Dec. 27, 1859, gave to the city a choice library of about 7,000 volumes in trust for the free use of the citizens forever, as a library of consultation and reference, to be used only in the library building. The conditions of his gift required that the library should be managed by twelve directors, elected by the city council, and that the city should furnish a suitable building, to be kept warmed and lighted, and should pay the salary of a librarian. The Lyceum and Library Association seconded Dr. Green by giving their library of about 4,500 volumes to the city at the same time, as the nucleus of a circulating library. In 1865 upwards of \$10,000 was raised by popular subscription as a fund for the maintenance of a free reading-room. The library building on Elm Street, which is generally well adapted to its uses, was erected by the city in 1860. Dr. Green, who had supplemented his original gift by constant additional ones, amounting to 4,968 volumes, died in the autumn of 1865, leaving \$30,000 and the reversion of certain trust funds to the city, with careful provisions for the custody and appropriation of the whole. In brief, one-fourth of the income is to be added annually to the fund, and three-fourths to the purchase of books for the reference department. The City Council has shown commendable discretion in the selection of the directors, and the city is fortunate in receiving the services of Mr. Samuel S. Green as librarian, whose original ideas as to the proper use and real end of a public library have not only made our own institution a potent factor in the education of the whole people, but have also, through his writings and his example, produced the same effect in many other cities of the country. It is this librarian's theory that visitors coming for information should be encouraged and not repelled; that, by personal attention, every facility should be given them to obtain the exact information which they need. Putting this theory into practice, the great mine of information contained in the library is thoroughly worked and its wealth, extracted with intelligence, steadily enriches the brains of the people. The statistics for the year 1878 show that on an average eighty-

\* See Vol. I., page 137.

† See page 622.



three volumes a day were given out in the "reference department" for serious inquiry, and in the circulating department four hundred and thirty-one, to be taken to the homes of applicants. The number of volumes in the library at the close of the year was, Green Library, 18,628; Intermediate Department (from which books can be taken under certain restrictions), 8,939; Circulating Department, 17,588. The circulating department is closed on Sundays and legal holidays, the reference department on legal holidays only, and the newspaper reading-room is open every day in the year. The hours on Sunday are from 2 to 9 P. M. The average attendance on Sundays in 1878 was two hundred and forty-eight, and the average number of volumes delivered on Sundays for use within the building was forty-eight. A large number of reference-books, such as dictionaries, lexicons, encyclopædias and the like are placed in reach of visitors; and no account is made of the use of these. The Green Library fund amounted, Nov. 30, 1878, to \$37,496.14.

Nov. 27, 1841, a meeting of active mechanics and of those interested in their welfare, was held in the town hall, to consider the subject of forming a Worcester County Mechanics' Association. Ichabod Washburn presided, Albert Tolman was secretary; and a committee, of which Anthony Chase was chairman, was chosen to report a constitution. The constitution was adopted Feb. 5, 1842, when William A. Wheeler was elected president; Ichabod Washburn, vice-president; Albert Tolman, secretary, and Elbridge G. Partridge, treasurer. Courses of lectures have been given nearly every year to the present time. The first Mechanics' Fair was held in September, 1848. Others have been held in 1849, 1851, 1857, and one or two in later years. An act of incorporation was obtained in 1850, giving authority to hold real estate to the amount of \$75,000 [increased to \$125,000 by an act of 1856], and personal property to the value of \$25,000. In May, 1854, Ichabod Washburn offered to give \$10,000 for the purchase of land and the erection of a building, if a like sum could be raised by subscription. The Waldo estate on Main Street was purchased, ground was broken in July, 1855, and the corner-stone was laid with impressive ceremonies on the 3d of September.\* The building was completed and dedicated March 19, 1857. It is 100 feet 5 inches front by 145 feet, with a height of 85 feet to the apex of the pediment. On the first floor are four stores. On the second floor are a reading-room, library and offices, and "Washburn Hall" (named for Dea. Ichabod Washburn), which is 50 by 80 feet and 17 feet high. "Mechanics' Hall," on the third floor, 80 feet by 131 and 40 feet high, will seat, in round numbers, 2,000 persons. The burden of carrying the building enterprise forward to completion proved almost too great for the association to bear, but the generous contributions of citizens, many of whom were ineligible to membership, enabled it to redeem and hold the property. Its debt is now but \$21,000, which is secured by a mortgage. The number of members, in April, 1879, was 1,147; of whom, 15 were honorary,

\* See an "Historical Sketch" published by the Association July, 1861.



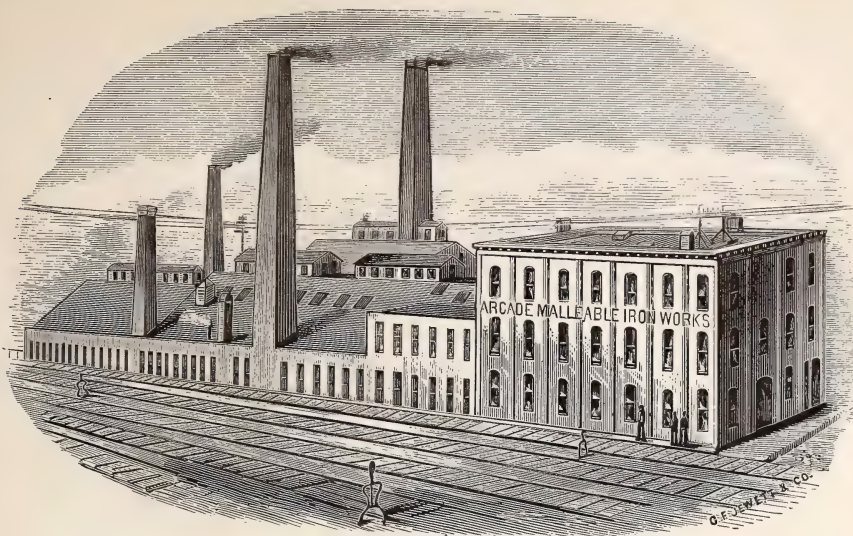
169 life, 807 active, and 156 apprentice members. The library, from which members and their families can take books to be read at home, contained 5,299 volumes. For several years a drawing-school for apprentices was maintained during the winter months, but the generous provision made by the city for instruction in mechanical and free-hand drawing has rendered it unnecessary for the association to furnish it longer. The fears of twenty-five years ago, that the building was projected on too grand a scale, have proved groundless. Already the larger hall is pronounced too small for certain uses, but as a rule it admirably meets the public need.

The Worcester County Historical Society was incorporated Feb. 19, 1831, for the purpose of collecting statistics for a full history of the county. The Hon. John Davis was president during its existence of some seven or eight years. The centennial anniversary of the erection of the county was celebrated by this society with an address from Mr. Davis and other ceremonies. The field of labor which this society aimed to cover is now well occupied by the Worcester Society of Antiquity.\*

The Legislature of 1798 authorized Daniel Goulding to bring water from a spring on his own land to his buildings on Front Street, for the accommodation of himself and other inhabitants, and also authorized the selectmen to take water from his pipes for the extinguishment of fires. No trace of such an aqueduct can now be found, nor is it remembered by those of our fellow-citizens who were active in town affairs a half century ago. Several private aqueducts, varying from a quarter of a mile to two miles in length, have been laid at different times, and some of them are still in service. The longest one, built by Ethan Allen in 1848, extended from the farm of Capt. Lewis Barnard on Burncoat Street, to Mr. Allen's house on Main Street, opposite the city hall. The court-houses, and several private residences and stores were supplied from this aqueduct. It was subsequently purchased by Harrison Bliss, Esq. Since the conversion of Mill Brook at Lincoln Square into a sewer, the Allen Aqueduct has been discontinued south of that point.

In November, 1842, the town appointed a committee to consider the matter of obtaining a supply of water for protection against fire. In the following summer the water of "Bladder Pond" was analyzed by Dr. Charles T. Jackson of Boston, who pronounced it purer than any of our common well waters. In November, 1843, the selectmen were authorized to buy the pond at an expense not exceeding \$300, and to construct an aqueduct at a cost not to exceed \$12,000. Without carrying out this order, the town voted, April 1, 1844, to pay \$500 yearly to any individual or any company who should bring in the waters of the pond. On Feb. 28, 1845, the inhabitants of the Centre District were incorporated as the Worcester Aqueduct Company. "Bladder Pond (says Lincoln) has the shape described by its appellation. It is situated on the north-east part of Chandler Hill, and contains five or six acres. The surface has been gradually

\* See Vol. I., page 136.



ARCADE MALLEABLE IRON WORKS, WORCESTER, MASS.  
(Warren McFarland, Proprietor.)



E. W. VAILL'S CHAIR WORKS, WORCESTER, MASS.





diminishing as the roots of vegetation have stretched themselves over its waters, forming a floating belt around on which it would be dangerous to tread." This sheet of water was renamed "Bell Pond" (an appellation which its shape in some measure describes). Stephen Salisbury, Isaac Davis, William A. Wheeler, Henry W. Miller and Samuel Davis were appointed a committee of managers of the new company; and on May 24, 1845, the town voted to surrender its own rights in the pond, and either to pay the company \$400 yearly as long as the aqueduct should be efficiently maintained, or to pay \$500 a year until the net income, including this sum, should exceed six per cent. of the cost of building and maintenance, when the excess should be applied to reimbursing the town. The company accepted the latter offer. The work of construction was completed in 1845, and the selectmen reported, March 2, 1846, that the water had been twice successfully used in the extinguishment of fires. The act incorporating the city, passed Feb. 29, 1848, authorized the city to purchase the rights and property of the Aqueduct Company, and the purchase was completed on the 8th of June following. June 2, 1851, the aqueduct commissioners reported that there were fifty-six water-takers, using 22,000 gallons daily. At this time it was evident that a larger supply was needed. In 1854, on recommendation of Mayor Knowlton, Mr. M. B. Inches of Boston was employed to make a thorough examination of the sources in and around the city from which an additional supply could be obtained, and his elaborate report, filling a pamphlet of about forty pages, was presented to the city council. During the autumn of 1855 and the following winter, a daily supply of about 16,000 gallons was obtained by pumping from Mill Brook, near Exchange Street. In the summer of 1856, Mr. Inches was employed to make a special survey of the country around Henshaw Pond in Leicester, with a view to store up its own waters, and those of Kettle Brook to be conducted into it by artificial means. The question of adopting such a plan was submitted to popular vote at the following municipal election, and was lost through an informality in the vote of one ward. During the winter of 1858-9, the pumps were again employed. In the summer of 1860, the valley of Lynde Brook was examined by order of the city council. The survey, and an analysis of the water, made by Dr. Jackson of Boston, were favorable, and the mayor was authorized to petition the Legislature for the right to take the waters from that stream. Lynde Brook is by nature a small and quiet stream, rising in the south-easterly part of Paxton, and flowing west of Tataesset Hill in a southerly course until, crossing the county road to Leicester in the village of Cherry Valley, it unites with Kettle Brook. Near its terminus it flows through a deep ravine whose sides, in time of heavy rains or thaws, pour down a sudden copious supply, and it was apparent that a dam across the southern end of the ravine would catch and hold for use a very large amount of water. But the successive city governments were conservative, and the water came not in of its own motion. The need of action was laid before the city by Mayor D. Waldo Lincoln in his inaugural address in 1863, and a

petition representing several million dollars of taxable property, was sent in to the city government, asking for more water. Mr. Phineas Ball, a learned engineer, the city's water commissioner, was instructed to look for a supply, and made a report giving the result of his survey of the basins of Lynde Brook, Henshaw Pond and Kettle Brook. The year passed without any action in the matter. The dam at Bell Pond was raised, however, three and one-half feet. The question of bringing water from Lynde Brook was submitted to a popular vote in January, 1864, and the people pronounced in its favor. The work was now begun in earnest. A dam was begun in April, 1864, and finished in the summer of 1865. The reservoir thus created had an area of forty-eight acres, and a capacity of 228,000,000 gallons. Water was let into the pipes Nov. 14, 1864, and the event was celebrated on the 22d day of the month by a parade of the fire department and a public meeting in Mechanics' Hall. In 1867 a distributing reservoir, holding about 3,000,000 gallons, was built in the village of Valley Falls. The increased use of the water diminished the head in the city to such a degree that upon Union Hill, and near Grant Square, the pipes were sometimes nearly empty. Accordingly, in 1873, an independent main was laid from "Nipnet Pond" (the name given to the storing reservoir by the city council of 1864), to the high lands on the east side of the city. The cost of this "high service" was \$231,597.35. The dam had been raised five feet in 1870, and ten feet in 1871, giving a storage capacity of about 560,000,000 gallons. On the afternoon of Thursday, March 30, 1876, — after two or three days of public anxiety on account of the increasing size of a leak which had been for some time existing, — the whole structure of the dam was carried away. The extent of the damage caused by letting loose this vast amount of water, with the impetus which it derived from its high storage ground, is thus described in a report of the committee on water to the city council, written by Hon. Clark Jillson, who was mayor at that time: —

"Dams, bridges, mills, roads and dwellings were swept away, but no lives were lost. The first building destroyed was the new barn at the Hodges place, near where Lynde Brook crosses the Leicester road. This barn was entirely destroyed, and the house near it greatly injured. The dam at the mill of J. A. Smith & Co. gave way, and the L part of the building, containing the office, occupied at the time by the telegraph operator, was destroyed, and communication with the city ceased. Two tenement-houses, one occupied by two, and the other by four families, were swept off. Next below was the mill of Wright Bottomly, standing on the southern bank of the stream; and nothing was left to show that any structure ever occupied the spot. The large brick mill of Ashworth & Jones was very seriously injured by the washing away of its rear part. Two dams belonging to this company were demolished, together with the boiler-room and gas-works. The boiler was found half a mile below. At the Hunt mill considerable damage was done, the dye-house, boiler-house and dam being mostly swept away. At Jamesville the dam was destroyed, and a part of the brick mill carried away. About 500 feet of the track of the Boston & Albany Railroad was taken off, and the embankment washed away. At Stoneville the dam was carried off and considerable other damage



was done. The arch bridge under the Boston & Albany Railroad [at New Worcester] was damaged so that reconstruction was necessary. Curtis's dam at New Worcester gave way, and a portion of the north end of Curtis & Marble's mill was carried off. The bridge just below, under the Boston & Albany Railroad, gave way and was totally destroyed. At one time the water came within fifty feet of the horse-car track at Webster Square. The dam at Hopeville was carried away, and the mill badly flooded. Still-water bridge, under the Norwich & Worcester Railroad, was badly damaged and has been rebuilt. The railroad embankment in the vicinity of this bridge was much washed. The Wicks Manufacturing Company had a part of their mill destroyed, and the South-bridge street bridges were carried off. A large part of the Island District was flooded, several houses having their first stories filled with water. The stone arch bridge at Quinsigamond [village] was much injured and in great danger of being entirely destroyed, though but little damage was done below that point. The Boston & Albany Railroad Company were obliged to run their trains over the Boston, Barre & Gardner Railroad to Winchendon, and thence to Palmer over the Ware River Railroad, until temporary structures could be erected where the road had been damaged."

The natural flow of the brook was turned into the pipes a few days after the disaster, and on the 3d of April the waters of Parsons Brook were diverted to the "Hunt" or distributing reservoir. The use of the water of Tatnuck Brook and its reservoirs was obtained, and a steam-pump was set in operation at the pond of Loring Coes, in New Worcester, May 5. A second one was started July 9; and from July 22 to Jan 16, 1877, the whole supply of the city was obtained by pumping. By order of the city government specifications for rebuilding the dam were made by Wm. J. McAlpine of Albany. The work was completed May 31, 1877, at an expense, including the cost of pumping and the dam at Parsons Brook, and not including damages, of \$112,528.64. The capacity of Nipnet Pond is now 681,000,000 gallons. There are now 76.36 miles of main pipe, and 41.2 miles of service pipe.

At a town meeting in March, 1786, a committee was appointed to report upon the cost of a fire-engine for the town; but, although the committee reported in favor of the purchase, at an adjourned meeting, the town declined to make the purchase. In 1790 four fire-wardens were appointed, and subsequently an engine was bought by private citizens, and known as the "proprietors' engine." Jan. 21, 1793, "for the more effectual assistance of each other and of their townsmen in times of danger from fire," twenty-two gentlemen associated themselves as the Worcester Fire Society. Each one of its members was supplied with two leather buckets, in which were kept two stout, capacious bags, a bed-key and a screw-driver, and on an alarm of fire they repaired to the scene with their equipments. At the quarterly meeting, in April of the same year, six ladders were ordered to be purchased, and these were distributed at central and easily accessible points on or near Main Street. The organization is still maintained, and the members, limited in number to thirty, are required, under heavy penalties, to procure and keep in good order the equipments originally required. The senior member, who has seen fifty-five years



of service, is Hon. Stephen Salisbury. The present list includes the attorney-general of the United States, an ex-governor of the State, a senator and a representative in Congress, a judge of the U. S. District Court, a justice of the Superior Court, and three ex-mayors of the city. Quarterly meetings, of a social and literary character, are held; but for many years the efficiency of the regular department has rendered it unnecessary for the members to turn out in case of fire. The "Mutual Fire Society," formed in July, 1822, and the "Social Fire Society," established in April, 1840, were similar institutions, which flourished for a while, but which have long been at rest.

In the same year that the fire society was formed, an engine was bought by the town; but it was not until 1835 that a regular fire department was created. Isaac Davis was chosen chief engineer, Lewis Bigelow, assistant, and Ichabod Washburn, clerk. Steam fire-engines were introduced in 1860, when the first steamer, called "Gov. Lincoln," was bought at Seneca Falls, N. Y. It was of a rude pattern, but a most efficient engine. The department now owns fifteen horses, five steam fire-engines, one mounted Babcock fire-extinguisher of large size, seven four-wheeled hose-carriages (additional to those belonging to the steamers), and three hook-and-ladder trucks, — all the apparatus being of the first class. The first steamer owned by the city (the old "Gov. Lincoln"), and one hook-and-ladder truck, are kept in reserve, and the Mount Vernon Hose Company, with its head-quarters on Catharine Street, is an independent association, of which E. F. Tolman is foreman. The manual force of the department consists of a chief engineer and four assistants, forty-two members of steamer companies, thirty members of hook-and-ladder companies, fifty-eight members of hose companies, and four members of the extinguisher company.

The fire-alarm telegraph was introduced here in the summer of 1871. There are now forty-eight signal-boxes at different points about the city, at any one of which an alarm may be given which at once automatically sounds the number of the box upon a large alarm bell on the Oxford Street school-house, and upon three of the church bells, and also on gongs at the office of the department, the engine-houses, the police office and other places. The chief engineer's office also communicates by telephone with several of the engine-houses, enabling a "still alarm" to be given at any time without disturbing the city.

The "Insurance Fire Patrol," incorporated May 19, 1875, have a wagon drawn by two swift horses, and their special mission is to protect personal property from damage by fire and water. They carry two Babcock Extinguishers, forty large india-rubber covers, and other appliances, and render most valuable service in case of fire. The patrol was organized by the insurance companies located or doing business here; but at present one-fourth of the expense is borne by the city. Four men are constantly on duty, and four more respond to calls, while at night the whole force are at the wagon-house. All but one are ex-firemen, the captain, Hiram Williamson, having served seven years in the regular department.

Simon E. Combs is in his seventh year of service as chief engineer of the fire department, and William Brophy, first assistant-engineer, is superintendent of the fire telegraph. The expenditures on account of the department, in 1878, were \$41,070.09; receipts, \$1,166.67.

The City Hospital was established by a city ordinance passed June 26, 1871. An appropriation of \$10,000 was made, and the institution was opened to the public in the Bigelow mansion, on Front Street, in the following October. In the month of March, 1872, the late George Jaques \* gave the city three acres of land on the south side of Prince Street, for a hospital site, stipulating that within three years the city should erect suitable buildings on the land, for at least twenty-five patients; and failing to do this, should pay Mr. Jaques or his legal representatives, \$200 a month for twenty-five years, or until the accommodations should be furnished. The deed was accepted, an appropriation of \$25,000 was made and set apart as a hospital fund, and plans were obtained from prominent architects. The death of Mr. Jaques soon followed (Aug. 24, 1872), and it was found that he had supplemented his generous gift by willing nearly the whole of his property to the city, in trust, for the benefit of the hospital. A single relative, who threatened to contest the will, was bought out by the city. Although the deed, with its heavy penalty for delay, had been accepted, the city council now began to have doubts as to the fitness of the prescribed location, its northern exposure and the shade which in a measure kept off the sun, being objections which carried weight. The Supreme Judicial Court, being petitioned, refused to release the city from the obligations of the deed. The hospital was removed to the Jaques homestead in January, 1874, and is now fitted to accommodate twenty-five patients. During the year ending Dec. 1, 1878, two hundred and ten patients were admitted to the hospital, of whom one hundred and thirty-seven were males, one hundred and thirteen were medical patients, and ninety-seven surgical. The daily average number was fourteen. Most of those admitted are free patients; but the whole or partial payment of board is required when circumstances admit. The average price paid during the last year was \$7.37 per week. When patients having a legal settlement in other towns are received, the pay of \$10 per week is required. The State aids in the support of those having no legal settlement in Massachusetts. The funds of the institution, and the large landed estate left by Mr. Jaques, are now in the hands of a commission consisting of three gentlemen, created by a city ordinance of 1877. The real estate was appraised in 1873 at \$181,000. The Jaques fund (personal property) amounted, Nov. 30, 1878, to \$32,143.16; Isaac Davis fund to

\* Mr. Jaques was born at Brooklyn, Conn., Feb. 18, 1816. He was son of Abiel Jaques (H. U., 1807), who was a civil engineer and mathematician, and who came to Worcester in 1833, and bought a large part of the Chandler Farm, most of which his son George inherited. The son was graduated at Brown University in 1836, taught school for several years in Virginia and here; was especially interested in horticulture and in the schools, the hospital, public library and Horticultural Society, and was a valuable member of the community during his lifetime.



\$1,446.60; Albert Curtis fund, \$1,076.29; John B. Shaw fund, \$64.27. J. Bartlett Rich, M. D. is superintendent and resident physician. The medical staff includes three consulting physicians and twelve visiting physicians, with Dr. L. S. Dixon as oculist and aurist, and Dr. Wm. H. Workman as pathologist. The gordian knot of a location of a permanent hospital has not yet been cut.

The poor-farm, now consisting of 304 acres, in the north-east part of the city and partly in Shrewsbury and Boylston, is in charge of the overseers of the poor, under the direct superintendence of B. F. Parkhurst. Here also is maintained a school for the reformation of habitual truants. The Jennison farm was purchased by the town in 1817, and the mansion at the west corner of Lincoln and Boylston streets, was occupied as a poor-house until 1855. The present poor-house, begun in 1854, was completed in 1855, at a cost of about \$25,000. The land is valued at \$20,500 and the buildings at \$38,500.

The police department includes a city marshal (or chief), two assistant marshals, a night captain, one roundsman, one detective and forty-six patrolmen. W. Ansel Washburn, the city marshal, is in his sixth term of office. Two truant officers are employed by the school committee. Six constables for civil business and nine for criminal business are appointed by the mayor.

The first hospital for the insane, then called the State Lunatic Hospital, built by the State, was established at Worcester, and was opened Jan. 18, 1833, under the charge of Dr. Samuel B. Woodward. A tract of land was secured for the purpose, on the east side of Summer Street, and later purchases took in another large tract in the rear for a garden, and the south portion of Chandler Hill for pasturage and mowing. Dr. Woodward was succeeded, July 1, 1846, by Dr. George Chandler, who continued to be superintendent for ten years, and was succeeded, July 16, 1856, by Dr. Merrick Bemis, who was superintendent until July 25, 1872. Dr. Barnard D. Eastman was superintendent until March 1, 1879, and was succeeded by Dr. John G. Park. On the opening of a similar asylum at Northampton, the name of the institution here was changed to Worcester Lunatic Hospital. Others were afterwards established by the State at Taunton and Danvers, but still the institution here became uncomfortably full, and a large tract of land, about 300 acres, was purchased on the eastern slope of Millstone Hill, extending to the shores of Lake Quinsigamond, on which a vast asylum was built, which was completed and occupied in 1877.

The Legislature of 1877 established an asylum for the chronic insane, and appropriated for its use the old buildings of the lunatic hospital on Summer Street, of which possession was taken Oct. 23, 1877. Dr. John G. Park was the first superintendent, receiving his appointment October 1st, and on his transfer to the new hospital he was succeeded by Dr. Hosea M. Quimby.

A private retreat for the insane is maintained by Dr. Merrick Bemis, formerly superintendent of the Worcester Lunatic Hospital, at "Herbert Hall" on



Salisbury Street, a pleasant situation about one mile northerly from the court-house.

The "Home for Aged Females" was founded by the Hon. Ichabod Washburn, who, at his decease in 1868, bequeathed to it \$25,000, and, upon the death of his widow, his homestead and \$42,500 additional. In order to realize the design of Mr. Washburn more speedily, Mrs. Washburn bought the right of reversion in the homestead early in the year 1873, for \$11,000. An estate on Orange Street was purchased and fitted up, at a cost of \$28,000, and by a special act of the Legislature, seven trustees were made a corporation, who, with their successors, have charge of the property. These trustees annually choose twenty-four visitors, one-half at least women, who have the interior management of the home and the control of admissions. The invested funds amount to \$12,000. Each inmate pays an entrance fee of \$100, and thus secures a pleasant home for the rest of her life.

An "Old Men's Home" was incorporated in 1876. It had no endowment at the start, but soon received from Mr. Albert Curtis the gift of a valuable and pleasantly situated estate at New Worcester, which can be fitted and used when sufficient funds are in the directors' hands. The late Judge Chapin left a useful bequest to the institution.

The "Memorial Hospital" for which the late Hon. Ichabod Washburn left an endowment fund, has not yet been built. A free dispensary has been for some time maintained from the fund, in the "Bigelow Mansion" on Front Street. The terms of the will allow the trustees complete freedom, and, if it should be thought advisable to create a hospital for special instead of general uses, in view of the fact that a city hospital has been generously endowed from another source, the trustees will be at liberty to carry out such plans as expediency may dictate.

The national banks of Worcester (with one exception) are the direct successors of State banks which existed when the national banking law passed Congress. It is proper to treat them as historically the same institutions.

The oldest bank in the city is the Worcester Bank, chartered March 7, 1804. Daniel Waldo was the first president, Levi Thaxter, cashier, and Robert B. Brigham, accountant. The cashier and accountant were sent to Boston to be instructed for four months in their duties. Daniel Waldo, Jr., succeeded his father as president Oct. 3, 1804, and held the office until his death July 9, 1845. He was succeeded by Stephen Salisbury, who continues to hold the office and has been director for forty-seven years. For many years the loans were upon notes with one or more sureties payable in fifty-seven days and grace. When due, a payment of one-fourth the loan was required, and the remainder was renewed. Loans were also made on pledge of the bank stock or on bond and mortgage running for one year, with interest payable at the end of the time. The practice of discounting business paper was not adopted, to any extent, until 1835. When the "Suffolk bank system" of redemption

of the bills of country banks was established in 1820, it was earnestly opposed by the Worcester bank, and an attempt to coerce it was stoutly resisted. Afterwards, however, the system was generally adopted and proved very advantageous. The present capital of the bank is \$500,000. Wm. Cross is vice-president, and James P. Hamilton cashier.

The Central Bank was incorporated March 12, 1828. Capital, \$300,000. John C. Mason is president, Henry A. Marsh cashier.

Quinsigamond Bank, incorporated March 25, 1833. Capital, \$250,000. Edward L. Davis is president, Alden A. Howe cashier.

Citizens' Bank, incorporated April 9, 1836. Francis H. Kinnicutt is president, Lewis W. Hammond cashier. Capital, \$150,000.

Mechanics' Bank, incorporated April 21, 1848. President, Harrison Bliss; cashier, George E. Merrill. Capital, \$350,000.

City Bank, incorporated in March, 1854. Calvin Foster is president and Nathaniel Paine cashier. Capital, \$400,000.

The First National Bank was formed, under the United States banking law, June 5, 1863, and began business on the 3d of October, before any of the existing banks in the city changed from State to national institutions. Edward A. Goodnow is president and A. H. Waite cashier. Capital, \$300,000.

The Worcester Safe Deposit and Trust Company received its first charter from the State as the Worcester Safe Deposit Company in March, 1868, and its second in May, 1869. It has a capital of \$200,000. It is a bank of deposit but not of issue, and pays interest on the daily balances of customers at the annual rate of two per cent. per annum. The company leases small safes enclosed in burglar-proof cases to which the renter alone has access, thus offering a place of security against fire or thieves, for bonds, notes and other articles of value. George M. Rice is president and Edward F. Bisco secretary.

The Worcester County Institution for Savings was incorporated Feb. 5, 1828. Hon. Daniel Waldo was president until July 9, 1845, Hon. Stephen Salisbury until April, 1871, and Hon. Alexander H. Bullock has been president since the last-named date. The institution for more than half a century has had but two treasurers: Samuel Jennison to October, 1853, and Charles A. Hamilton (who had previously been cashier of the Quinsigamond Bank for the twenty years since its formation), for twenty-six years preceding his decease, Oct. 30, 1879. At the close of the first year's business there were one hundred and five depositors and a deposit of \$6,263. In April, 1861, the deposits amounted to \$2,742,833.50 and the number of depositors was 12,408. Present deposits \$6,959,342.06. Charles A. Chase was elected treasurer Nov. 10, 1879.

The Mechanics' Saving Bank was incorporated May 15, 1851. Harrison Bliss is president; and Henry Woodward has been treasurer since July 10, 1854. Amount of deposits, \$2,803,761.74.

The Five Cents Savings Bank was chartered April 7, 1854, and began busi-



ness July 1, 1855. Clarendon Harris was treasurer until 1872, and has been its president for the past year. George W. Wheeler, city treasurer for twenty-two years, is treasurer of the bank. Deposits, \$1,925,337.28.

The People's Savings Bank was incorporated May 13, 1864. Charles M. Bent has been treasurer from the beginning. Hon. Lucius J. Knowles is president. Deposits, \$3,014,790.97.

The Worcester Mutual Fire Insurance Company, one of the oldest in the State, was incorporated Feb. 11, 1823. Its presidents have been: Rejoice Newton, 1824 to 1831, Frederick W. Paine to 1852, Anthony Chase to 1879, and Ebenezer Torrey; secretaries, Henry K. Newcomb, 1824, Wm. D. Wheeler, 1824 to 1827, Isaac Goodwin to 1832, Anthony Chase to 1852, and Charles M. Miles. The company confines its business to risks of the first class, and returns at the expiration of policies a dividend of sixty per cent. on the premiums paid.

The People's Mutual Fire Insurance Company was organized in 1847, and in 1865 was converted into a stock company. The great Boston fire, in 1873, compelled this company to wind up its business, paying its policy-holders a dividend of 73.6 per cent. Among the original officers, E. H. Hemenway was president, and Oliver Harrington was secretary. Mr. Hemenway was succeeded by Henry Chapin as president, and Samuel H. Colton as treasurer. Mr. Harrington was succeeded by Augustus N. Currier as secretary.

The Bay State Fire Insurance Company, organized Jan. 1, 1861, and having a capital of \$200,000, and the Central Mutual Fire Insurance Company, organized a few years later, were also compelled to suspend business on account of the Boston fire. Of the former, Wm. S. Davis was president, and U. C. Crosby, secretary. Of the latter, Wm. T. Merrifield was president, L. C. Parks, vice-president, H. K. Merrifield, secretary, and Albert Tolman, treasurer.

The Merchants and Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company has conducted a successful business since 1846. Isaac Davis is president, Elijah B. Stoddard, secretary, and William Dickipson, treasurer. Its assets are \$212,589, and its liabilities, \$111,345.

The First National Fire Insurance Company has a capital of \$200,000, and assets of \$293,977. Charles B. Pratt is president, R. James Tatman, secretary, and Hartley Williams, treasurer. Of the above-named insurance companies, the Worcester Mutual had no risks in Boston at the time of the fire; the Merchants and Farmers', and First National, were enabled to continue their business, by making assessments; the former on their premium notes, and the latter on the capital stock.

The Manufacturers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company was chartered in 1834, and began the business of insuring manufacturing property. After a temporary suspension, it was re-organized, and in 1861 was merged with the Mechanics' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, under the name of the Worcester



Manufacturers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Hon. George M. Rice is president, and Samuel R. Barton, secretary. Assets, \$177,241; liabilities, \$68,757.

The State Mutual Life Assurance Company was organized in 1845, under a perpetual charter from the State. For twenty years it carried a guarantee capital of \$100,000; but since that time, the stock having been retired, the company has been purely mutual. The company has ever been managed upon conservative principles, and experience has proved the wisdom of such a course. The interest realized on its invested funds has paid all the death losses of the company from its organization. Policy-holders receive a generous dividend upon their annual premium, which gives them a safe insurance at a low rate. Not a dollar of its assets has ever been lost. Clarendon Harris has been secretary from the beginning. Isaac Davis is president, and William Dickinson, treasurer.

Among the societies and clubs of Worcester, the Worcester Association for Mutual Aid in Detecting Thieves, organized Nov. 16, 1795, maintains its organization, although the service of the police and the aid of the telegraph, and now the telephone, have made the office of "pursuing committee" a sinecure.

The Worcester Board of Trade was incorporated in 1875. Joseph H. Walker is president, and Charles A. Chase secretary. The Board has maintained pleasant rooms for social gatherings and business meetings; and many addresses on topics of interest have been given by members and others. A lack of interest on the part of the members has led the executive council to give up the lease of the rooms for the present.

The introduction of water by an aqueduct was followed, four years later, by the introduction of gas. The subject was first broached by Dr. Joseph Sargent, now president of the Worcester Gas-Light Company. The company was organized June 22, 1849, with a capital of \$45,000. John W. Lincoln was the president, and Warren Lazell, agent. Land for the works was purchased on Lincoln Street, near Belmont, and gas was supplied to subscribers in the month of November following. The company was incorporated in 1851. The works were enlarged in 1854 and 1860; but in 1870 they were removed to a large tract of land on Brook Street, near the "Junction" station, where new buildings, admirably adapted to the purpose, were erected. Mr. Lazell was succeeded as agent in 1852 by James B. Blake, who held the position until his death, Dec. 18, 1870. Dr. Joseph Sargent is president, James H. Rollins is agent, and the capital of the company is \$500,000.

The Worcester Co-operative Saving Fund and Loan Association, incorporated Oct. 19, 1877, is a successful institution, patterned after similar ones which have proved most beneficial in Philadelphia and elsewhere. The president is D. S. Goddard.

The Young Men's Christian Association, organized in June, 1864, was incorporated June 4, 1868. It maintains a free reading-room and does a large

amount of mission work. Its membership embraces representatives of the various evangelical religious societies in Worcester.

The Worcester Children's Friend Society was organized in 1849. Mrs. Jonas M. Miles, the first superintendent, had previously become deeply interested in the condition of young orphans who were left dependent upon the world, and had taken several such into her own family. Enlisting the sympathy of other benevolent ladies, the society was formed after a few years of unorganized effort, and has continued its good work to the present time. A commodious house on Shrewsbury Street was given to the society by Col. John W. Lincoln, soon after its organization, and in 1866 a pleasant home was purchased at the corner of Main and Benefit streets, the present "Orphan's Home." The members of the society are from all Protestant denominations, and some of the managers have been in the service from the beginning. It depends for support upon annual contributions and upon the income of a modest fund, made up from legacies and fees for life-membership. The matron, Miss Tamerson White, has had charge of the Home since its first establishment, and to her skill and experience, and her love for her work, are due much of its success and usefulness.

The Masonic bodies include: Morning Star Lodge, chartered in 1793; Montacute Lodge (1859), Athelstan Lodge (1867), Quinsigamond Lodge (1871), Worcester Royal Arch Chapter (1823), Eureka Royal Arch Chapter (1870), Hiram Council R. and S. Masters (1826), Worcester County Commandery of Knights Templar (1824), Knights of the Order of Rome and the Red Cross of Constantinople (1872), St. John's Conclave (1874), Grand Lodge of Perfection (1863), Goddard Council P. of J. (1870), Lawrence Charter of Rose Croix (1870); also, the Grand Chapter and Stella Chapter No. 3, Order of the Eastern Star, and a Masonic Relief Association.

Of the Odd Fellows there are, Quinsigamond Lodge, organized in 1844; Worcester Lodge (1844 and 1870), Central Lodge (1874), Wachusett Encampment (1845 and 1869), Mt. Vernon Encampment (1877), Worcester Union Degree Lodge (1873); also Naomi Lodge Daughters of Rebekah (1872), and the Odd Fellows' Mutual Relief Association (1871).

Integrity Lodge of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, and the Household of Ruth, are composed of colored citizens.

There are two divisions of Sons of Temperance, — the Worcester (instituted in 1858) and the Washingtonian (1865); of Good Templars, Rising Star Lodge (1863) and Charity Lodge (1864); Palestine Council of Select Templars (1871); Worcester Temple of Honor (1870), Olive Branch Temple (1872), Mt. Vernon Social Temple (1878); also, the Praying Women's Temperance Union (1874), the Christian Temperance League (1874), the Worcester Reform Club (1876), and the Worcester Temperance Club.

There are here a division of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and a lodge of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen; a lodge of Knights of

Honor, and one of Knights and Ladies of Honor: to wit, the Pearl Lodge of the Degree of Protection; two lodges of Knights of Pythias; three councils of Sovereigns of Industry; the Worcester Grange of Patrons of Husbandry; a Typographical Union; two courts, a camp and a Lady Sherwood Miriam degree court of the Independent Order of Foresters; Worcester Council of Royal Arcanum.

The different foreign races represented in Worcester have their own charitable associations. Those of the Irish race are of course most numerous, as that race includes about one-third of the present population of the city. Of the Ancient Order of Hibernians there are four divisions, and one company of Hibernian Guards. The Irish Catholic Benevolent Society was organized in 1863. The Father Mathew Mutual Benefit Total Abstinence Society was organized Nov. 4, 1849, and incorporated March 17, 1863. The Worcester Catholic Temperance Association was organized in 1878.

Other Irish societies are the Emmett Associates, Grattan Literary Society (1867), Montgomery Guards (1878) and Sarsfield Guards (1874). The last two are military organizations.

The English have Prince Consort Lodge of the Sons of St. George, organized in 1872; and their Scotch brethren have St. Andrew's Benevolent Society.

The German organizations include the singing society, Frohsinn, organized March 18, 1858; the Turnverein (April 3, 1859); and Einigkeit Lodge of the Secret (benevolent) Order of Harugari (November, 1853).

The French Canadians have their Société St. Jean Baptiste, organized Jan. 1, 1868.

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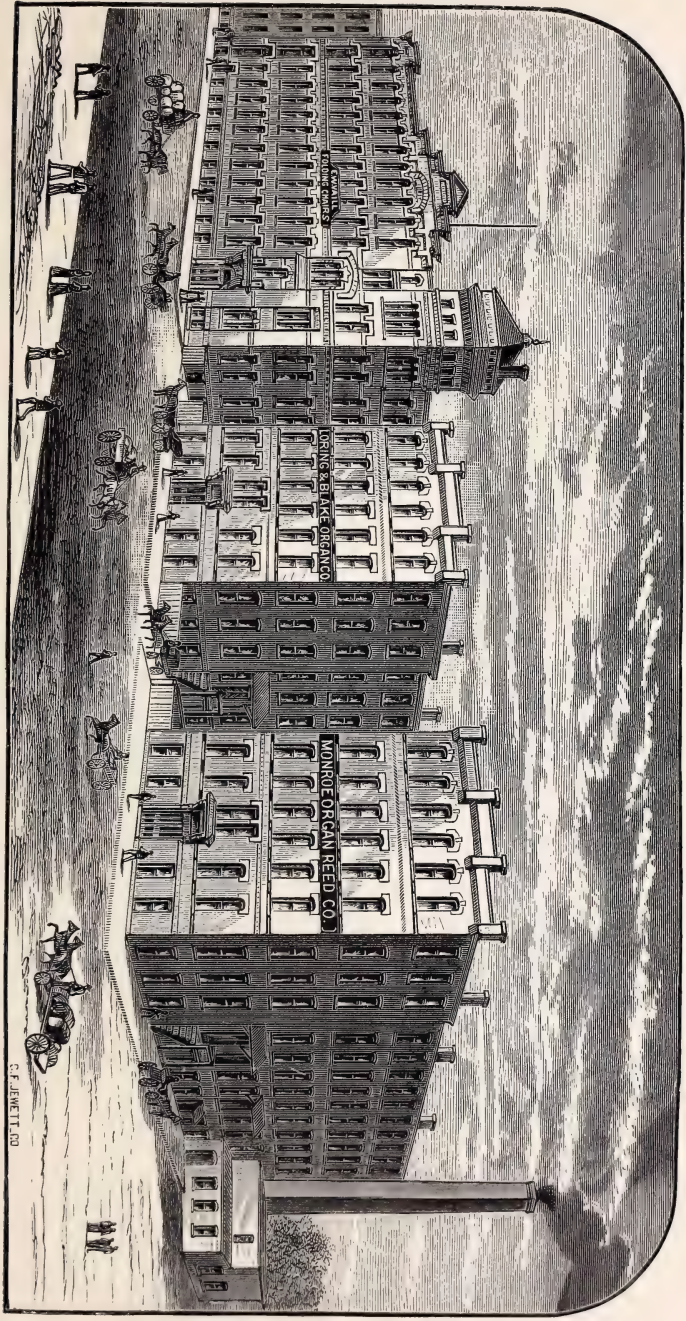
## CHAPTER XIV.

FIRST MILLS — WATER POWER — RESERVOIRS — CLOTH MANUFACTURE — IRON WORKINGS — AMES PLOW COMPANY — ICHABOD WASHBURN — THE WASHBURN AND MOEN COMPANY — CHAIR MANUFACTURE — CROMPTON LOOM WORKS — CROMPTON CARPET COMPANY — LUCIUS J. KNOWLES — OSGOOD BRADLEY — THE COES BROTHERS — ALBERT CURTIS — OTHER MANUFACTURERS.

THE committee of settlement, appointed by the General Court in 1665, awarded an acre of land "for the encouragement of building a corn and saw mill at any place on Mill Brook, not far from the old Indian fort." This site (just north of Lincoln Square) was taken up by Capt. John Wing, of Boston, who also became owner of a tract of 80 acres to the north and north-west, which afterwards became the property of Hon. Stephen Salisbury.

George Danson, a baker of Boston, obtained a grant of 200 acres on the west side of the same stream, north of the fort, and extending to North Pond.





STEPHEN SALISBURY'S FACTORIES, WORCESTER, MASS.



A mill-site at Quinsigamond village was granted to Nathaniel Jones, but he forfeited it by not building, although it subsequently came into his hands. Elijah Chase built on the spot the first corn-mill in the town, which was the only one for many years, Mr. Wing's being devoted to sawing lumber only.

Works for making potash were established in the north part of the town about the year 1760, and buildings for similar purposes were afterwards erected in various parts of the town. The hill over which Pleasant Street (the original county road leading westward) runs, was called Potash Hill down to a time within the memory of many now living.

In 1780 an association was formed for the purpose of spinning and weaving cotton. The site of the factory was on Mill Brook, just north of School Street. The first piece of corduroy made there was taken from the loom in April, 1780. In May, 1790, Samuel Brazer advertised for sale fustian, jean, corduroy, federal rib and cotton, all made here. The enterprise was abandoned soon after, and the factory-building, moved to the west side of Main Street, south of Market Street, (once called Pig Lane), was long known as the Old Green Store. It gave way, a few years ago, to the present Parker block.

The two mill-sites at Quinsigamond village, and a large tract of land in the neighborhood, became the property of John Chandler, the "honest refugee." Confiscated by the State, the property was sold to Isaiah Thomas, who, in 1794, erected a mill for the manufacture of paper. The business was afterwards carried on by Gardner Burbank, who, in 1834, was succeeded by the Quinsigamond Paper Company. The privilege was purchased in 1846 by Ichabod and Charles Washburn, and has since been used by the Washburn and Moen Manufacturing Company and its predecessors in the same business, as a rolling-mill for the manufacture of coarse wire.

The water-power of the town has been trebled during the present century by the establishment of reservoirs; but there is hardly a factory at the present time which does not employ steam as an auxiliary power, and probably 80 per cent. of the vast amount of manufactures annually produced, has the aid of steam power alone.

Daniel Denny began the manufacture of cards for cotton and wool in 1808. William Stowell carried on the same business at about the same time.

In October, 1804, Peter Stowell, and his brother Ebenezer, began the weaving of carpets and plaids, and at one time had six looms of their own invention and manufacture in operation.

Abel Stowell was celebrated as a maker of church and tower clocks at the close of the last century and the beginning of this one. The town clock of the Old South Church, removed but a few years ago, was made by him in 1800, and several house clocks, bearing his name, are still in use and are treasured as heir-looms by the families in which they have been preserved.

Obadiah Ward from Marlborough, one of the earliest settlers, built a saw-mill on the present site of the Crompton Loom Works on Green Street. The



site was afterwards for many years occupied by the "Old Red Mills," which gave way to Mr. Crompton's works some twenty years ago.

Samuel Andrews built a tannery on the south side of Lincoln Square early in the last century, and in 1749 erected a house (lately standing on Prospect Street) opposite the old court-house. His orphan daughter, Anna, married Col. Timothy Bigelow, who occupied the mansion, which was afterwards owned by Dr. Abraham Lincoln, Col. Bigelow's son-in-law.

Capt. Palmer Goulding, a cordwainer, built a house on Front Street, between Salem Square and Trumbull Street, previous to 1731. He early moved into the north precinct (Holden), but his son, Palmer Goulding, Jr., and grandson Daniel occupied the house, and carried on an extensive business in the way of tanning, making malt, curing hams, &c. Their works were on the north side of Front Street, opposite the house, on a lot sliced out of the ministerial land. The Goulding house was converted into "The Elephant Hotel" in 1820 by Nathaniel Eaton, and was kept as such by different parties for about twenty-five years. It now stands on Tremont Street. The late John Goulding, a successful inventor of woolen machinery, was a nephew of Palmer Goulding, Jr.

Probably no city in the country has so great a variety of manufactures in proportion to its size as Worcester. Even before the introduction of railroads there was a goodly variety, and with the era of steam communication began a development of manufacturing interests which has steadily increased to the present time. The machinery used in the large factories of various kinds, is in great part made here, and similar machinery, or that adapted to special industries is made in shops, some employing hundreds of hands and others of lesser size. A peculiarity of the manufacturing system of Worcester is, that it is conducted in large degree by private capital, the large corporations being but few in number. There are several companies, however, organized under the general corporation laws of the State, in which the stock is wholly or in great part held by those who have an active part in the conduct of affairs. But the city offers special facilities for mechanics with small means to prosecute their labor, to run machines, or carry on processes of their own invention, or to ply the trades of which they are masters. For the accommodation of this class the large machine-shops erected and owned by Mr. William T. Merrifield on Union Street and its neighborhood, are admirably adapted. These buildings are on the site of others which were erected thirty years ago and were destroyed on the 14th of June, 1854, by the most disastrous fire that ever visited the city, the loss being nearly half a million dollars. Here the mechanic can hire any desired amount of room, whether large or small, with the necessary steam-power. Similar privileges can be obtained at other establishments.

In 1836 there were two mills here manufacturing broadcloths, six making satinets, one for cotton sheeting and shirting, two for satinet warps, one for pelisse wadding, two for paper, seven extensive establishments for building machinery, a wire factory, an iron foundry, — manufactories of sashes, doors

and blinds; lead aqueduct-pipe; paper-hangings; cabinet furniture; chairs; brushes; trunks and harnesses; plows; hats; shoes; watches; umbrellas; cutlery; pianofortes; and many other articles of utility or ornament.

The iron foundry established by William A. Wheeler on Thomas Street in 1825, is one of the oldest and most famous in the State. The first stationary engine employed in the State, west of Boston, was erected here. In 1835 he began the manufacture of hot-air furnaces after a pattern which, with some few modifications, is still in use and is very popular. He also engaged in brass-founding, and his business came to include castings of almost every description. Mr. Wheeler was one of the projectors of the Worcester and Nashua Railroad, which was built under his supervision; first president of the Mechanics' Association, and a valuable and valued citizen. His foundry is now carried on by Messrs. Heald & Britton.

The extensive works of the Washburn Iron Company on Bloomingdale Road, are employed in rolling car-rails and in the manufacture of car-wheels. The business was founded by Nathan Washburn, now of Hartford, Conn. Mr. Washburn, who had obtained a patent for an improved car-wheel, came to the city in 1848 and engaged in the manufacture of these wheels with E. A. Converse, under the firm-name of Converse & Washburn, the partnership continuing for six years. In 1850 he obtained another patent for the "Washburn Car Wheel," which is now in general use. Mr. Washburn has removed to Hartford, Conn., the Washburn Iron Company continuing the large business which grew up here from his early beginnings. Edward L. Davis is treasurer of the company, and George W. Gill is manager.

The building of paper machinery, as now represented by the Rice, Barton & Fales Machine and Iron Co., was started by Henry P. Howe and Isaac Goddard nearly 50 years ago. George M. Rice was admitted a partner in June, 1846. Mr. Howe died in 1847, and in 1848 George S. Barton and Amos Stevens were admitted, the style of the firm being Goddard, Rice & Co. Mr. Stevens' interest was afterwards acquired by E. A. Goddard, son of Isaac. In 1862 the firm dissolved, and George M. Rice, George S. Barton and Joseph E. Fales formed a co-partnership as Rice, Barton & Co. In 1867 they obtained an act of incorporation as the Rice, Barton & Fales Machine and Iron Company, with a capital of \$150,000. Since 1866 they have enlarged their works, and made their own iron and brass castings. Their machinery is largely represented in the paper-mills of Holyoke and vicinity, and generally throughout the United States. They have shipped machinery to Germany, France, Japan, Mexico and Canada; and have also built a large portion of the calico printing and bleaching machinery in use in this country.

The Arcade Malleable Iron Foundry, of which Warren McFarland is proprietor, has for many years been in successful operation at the junction of Grafton Street with the railroad.

Other foundries are, those of the Junction Foundry Company, the Wheeler



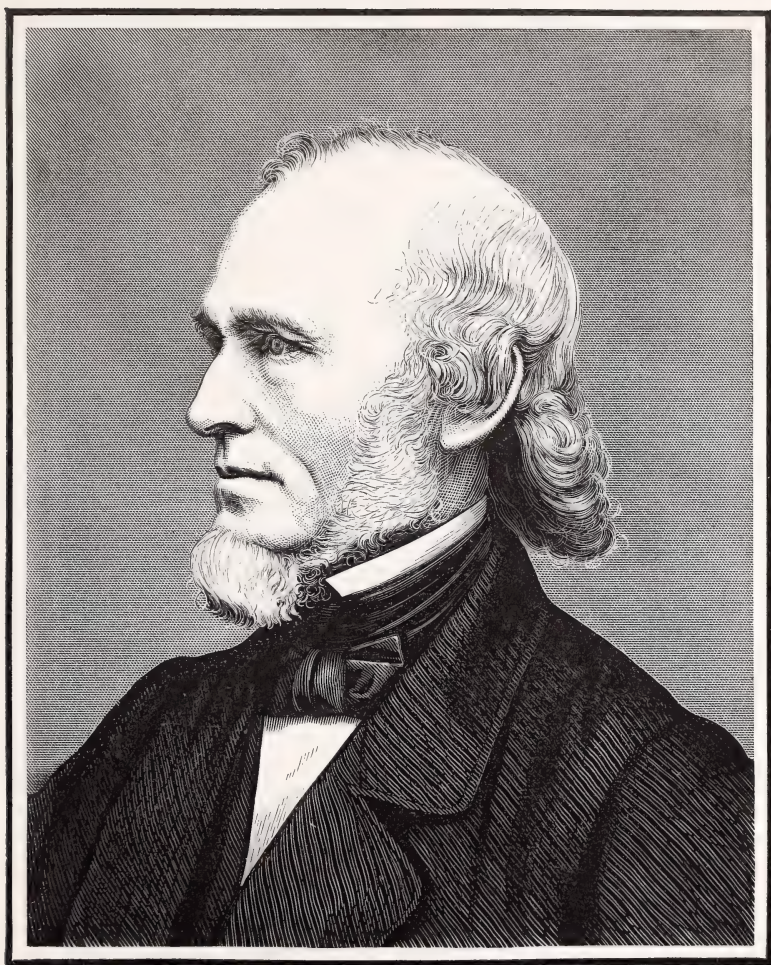
Foundry Company, and C. & J. A. Colvin. Jason Chapin and L. H. Wells have brass foundries, and some of the large manufacturers of machinery have foundries of their own.

On the site of the old forge of Col. Timothy Bigelow (south of Lincoln Square), Draper Ruggles, Joel Nourse and John C. Mason began, in 1836, the manufacture of plows. The rude and imperfect implement of that time was developed and improved by them to such degree as to make it almost perfect. The buildings, owned by Hon. Stephen Salisbury, were enlarged from time to time to meet the increase in their business, which, from a product of about one hundred plows during the first year, developed in twenty years to an annual product of thirty thousand plows of one hundred and fifty different forms. The firm of Ruggles, Nourse & Mason was succeeded, April 1, 1856, by that of Nourse, Mason & Co., of which the members were Peter Harvey, Joel Nourse and Samuel Davis, with Messrs. Sampson & Tappan as silent partners. In 1860 the establishment passed into the hands of Oliver Ames & Sons of Easton, by whom it is still conducted under the name of the "Ames Plow Company." In 1876 the business was removed to a large and spacious factory erected by Mr. Salisbury on Prescott Street, and the old buildings were demolished to accommodate the new location of Union Street. They now make nearly a hundred varieties of cast-iron plows, and half as many with steel mould-boards, which are especially adapted to the rich soil of the West.

The Richardson Manufacturing Company, in a large building next to that of the Ames Plow Company, turn out a large product of mowing-machines and other agricultural implements.

Ichabod Washburn, born at Kingston Aug. 11, 1798, was of Puritan origin on his grandfather's side and of Huguenot stock on the side of his grandmother. His father, of the same name, a sea-captain, who intended to rear his son to the same profession, died when that son and his twin brother, Charles, were about two months old. At the age of nine years he was bound apprentice to a chaise and harness maker in Duxbury. In the spring of 1814 he was entered as apprentice with Jonathan and David Trask of Leicester. He remained with them, and with Nathan Muzzey of Auburn, until his twentieth birthday. In the winter of 1818-19 he engaged in the manufacture of plows, in a small way, at Millbury, receiving assistance, in the way of credit, from Daniel Waldo of Worcester. In 1820 he went into business with William H. Howard, manufacturing woolen machinery and lead-pipe. Mr. Howard leaving, he soon afterward took Benjamin Goddard as partner. The new firm made the first woolen-condenser and long-roll spinning-jack ever made in the county. Selling out this business, they erected works at Northville for the manufacture of wire and wooden screws. In 1834 he continued the business of manufacturing wire on his own account at the "Grove Mill," built for him by Hon. Stephen Salisbury. His brother Charles was partner with him from 1842 to 1849, and was subsequently part owner of the rolling-mill built at





*Isabel Hookburn*



Quinsigamond Village. His son-in-law, Hon. Philip L. Moen, became his partner in 1850, and is now president and treasurer of the Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Company, which was incorporated in 1868 and has a capital of \$1,500,000. In 1850 he began experiments which resulted in the invention of a process of making steel wire for the strings of pianofortes, — an undertaking which he pronounced the greatest success of his mechanical life. Wire for sewing-machine needles, for crinoline skirts, and galvanized wire for telegraph lines, were among the forms of manufacture which he invented or carried on. The machine for drawing wire, first used by Washburn & Goddard in 1831, was capable of drawing about fifty pounds a day. They at once improved upon the rude apparatus so as to increase its product tenfold, and soon substituted the drawing-block, which has never been improved, and which enables one man to draw twenty-five hundred pounds in a day. Mr. Washburn was a man of marked piety and a public-spirited citizen. About the year 1836 he engaged with others in maintaining a Sunday school in the "African" school-house at East Worcester, and in 1855 the Mission Chapel on Summer Street, built with his money, was dedicated. He was active in securing the establishment of a Sunday school at the house of correction, which has been maintained for more than forty years. He gave \$25,000 towards the erection of Mechanics' Hall. To every charity that appealed for aid he was a generous giver. The noble endowment by Mr. Boynton of the School of Industrial Science was largely supplemented by Mr. Washburn; he gave money for the endowment and erection of the machine-shop, which plays an important part in the good work of the institution. By his last will he founded the Home for Aged Women and a free hospital; the latter in memory of his two daughters, whom he survived. He died on the 30th of December, 1868.

The company founded by Mr. Washburn, at their two establishments, produces every known kind of wire, among the varieties galvanized telegraph wire, pianoforte wire and the patent steel-barb fencing being specially prominent. The enormous works of this company, on Grove Street, constitute a small village in themselves. Charles F. Washburn is vice-president and secretary.

In honor of Hon. Alfred D. Foster, a warm personal friend of Ichabod Washburn, the latter gentleman gave to the son of his only sister the name of Alfred D. Warren. The large product of wire for the hoop-skirts which attained such generous dimensions some fifteen years ago, drew Mr. Washburn's attention to the manufacture of cotton-thread, and in 1865 he gave the nephew a start in the latter business with a capital of \$7,000. The enterprise soon outgrew the accommodations offered by the Washburn & Moen mill, and a building erected by Hon. Stephen Salisbury, on Prescott Street, was hired and occupied until Oct. 1, 1879, when an advantageous offer of still more room at a very low rate led to the removal of the business to Ashland. The daily



product had reached five thousand dozen spools of cotton (of 200 yards each), employing two hundred and forty operatives, of whom three-fourths were females, with an average business of \$1,200 per diem, and a monthly pay-roll of \$5,000. The business was owned and conducted by Mr. Warren in person, though carried on under the name of the Warren Thread Company.

The Worcester Wire Company have extensive works on Cambridge Street (Riverside), on the site formerly occupied by Ichabod Washburn and Benjamin Goddard for the same purpose. Wire and wire products in various forms are here turned out in large quantities, and of a quality that has a wide reputation. Mr. William E. Rice, who has had a practical experience of many years, is president and manager of the company.

The manufacture of wire goods has long been carried on here to a considerable extent. The business is now practically consolidated in the hands of the National Manufacturing Company, in the old hotel building on the corner of Main and Thomas streets.

The first manufacturer of card-clothing in the country was Pliny Earle\* of Leicester. He was engaged by Samuel Slater of Pawtucket, the originator of cotton-factories in America, to furnish the card-clothing required for his mills. The first process, compared with the present one, was rude enough. Mr. Earle, with no other machinery than two needles, made holes in the leather for the teeth, which he set in the cards with his fingers. He next arranged machinery for punching the holes, and other machinery for making the teeth, which must still be inserted by hand. The two machines were afterwards combined in one, and Mr. Earle and his son, William B., made improvements which brought the card-setting machine to its present state of perfection. Mr. Earle's business is continued here by his nephew and successor, Timothy K. Earle, who with his son-in-law, Edwin Brown, constitute the widely-known firm of T. K. Earle & Co. In the first year of Mr. Pliny Earle's engagement in making machine-cards he did not use more than a dozen calf-skins. The present firm use over thirty thousand cow-skins annually, which are tanned expressly for them — figures which will give an idea of the vast business of the concern.

The Sargent Card-Clothing Company, which also was founded by Leicester

\* Among the children of Pliny and Patience Buffum Earle were Dr. Pliny Earle, distinguished as a successful physician to the insane, and now superintendent of the State Hospital at Northampton; the late Hon. John Milton Earle, who was for many years editor and publisher of the "Spy," member of the legislature and senator, and postmaster under President Lincoln, and the late Thomas Earle of Philadelphia, an able lawyer and author of legal works, who was candidate of the Liberal party for Vice-President in 1840. Of Pliny Earle's four daughters, the eldest, Lydia, married Anthony Chase of Worcester. Mr. Chase and John Milton Earle were associated in business here from 1816 until 1828, at first in a "country store," and later in publishing the "Spy." Mr. Chase was the first local agent of the Blackstone Canal, was county treasurer from 1831 to 1835, secretary of the Worcester Mutual Fire Insurance Company from 1832 to 1852, and its president from that time until his death, Aug. 4, 1879. He was first secretary of the Lyceum, was one of the originators of the Mechanics' Association, and held several offices of trust during his life of over 88 years.

men, have a large factory on Southbridge Street, which turns out a large annual product of card-clothing and also of hand-cards, for which there is a great demand at the South.

The firm of Howard Brothers is also largely engaged in the manufacture of card-clothing.

The manufacture of envelopes is a prominent industry of Worcester, employing a large number of operatives. Dr. Russell Hawes of this city invented an envelope-folding machine and began the manufacture, which was developed by Messrs. Joseph P. Trumbull and George F. Hartshorn, and later by Messrs. Hill, Devoe & Co., and is now conducted by Mr. W. H. Hill. Another large house, that of G. Henry Whitcomb & Co., established in 1864, has a capacity for producing one million envelopes daily. They employ machines invented by Henry D. and D. Wheeler Swift, their foremen. A large proportion of all the envelopes used in the country is made in Worcester.

The manufacture of wood-working machinery, established for the first time as a separate branch of industry, in 1836, by J. A. Fay and Edward Joslin, at Keene, N. H., was soon afterward introduced into Worcester. In 1852 Ephraim C. Tainter began the manufacture of Daniels Planers at the "Junction Shops." A branch of the Keene house had been established at Norwich, Conn., and in 1853 J. A. Fay & Co. became the owners of the Tainter establishment here. In 1862, after the discontinuance of the business here, Mr. Horace A. Richardson, who had been a member of the Worcester firm since 1858, formed the firm of Richardson, Merriam & Co., the other partners being Rufus N. Merriam, William B. McIver and Samuel F. Bond, all of whom had been engaged in the work of the old firm. Mr. Merriam, who was a practical draftsman and designer, a graduate of Dartmouth College (1844), introduced several improvements in the style of the machinery, for which letters patent were secured. From a small beginning the business increased to a trade of nearly \$200,000 per annum, giving employment to one hundred men. Mr. Bond retired from the firm in January, 1873, and died in the same month. Financial embarrassments threw the firm into insolvency in 1876. In February, 1877, Mr. McIver, with his brother, John C., purchased the stock and good-will from the receivers, and the business is continued under the firm-name of McIver Bros. & Co.

The requirements of the immense Union army in the war of the Rebellion created a great demand for camp furniture, and Mr. Edward W. Vaill, who in 1862 was conducting a successful furniture business in Worcester, began the manufacture of a folding camp-chair which was readily transportable, and which met with general favor. Having obtained a patent, he devoted himself in 1863 entirely to the manufacture of these chairs. The prospect of peace led him to develop the original idea into a form suitable for general use, and the folding chairs of his patterns are now made in a thorough and elegant style, and have become a staple article of furniture, adapted for the drawing-room,



library, veranda, church, public hall, seaside and shipboard. He now has no less than seventy-five patents for the various principles and combinations involved in the construction of more than one hundred different patterns and sizes. The development of the business until it was scattered through a number of buildings on Main Street, covering 30,000 feet of floor room, led him to seek for new quarters, and in January, 1877, he removed to the large five-story building on Union Street, constructed by Hon. Stephen Salisbury, with an acre and a half of floor room. The greater portion of his frames are made in Ashburnham, Templeton, and the northern towns of the county, giving employment to nearly 200 people. At the factory here, they are put together and upholstered, giving employment to nearly a hundred operatives. The factory turns out an annual product double that of any similar one in the country, the yearly sales amounting to some \$300,000. The folding principle of the chairs largely facilitates convenience in shipment, and they are sent to every quarter of the world.

The firm of Witherby, Rugg & Richardson, on Salisbury Street, is the direct successor of the first establishment in Worcester for the production of wood-working machinery. The various "Woodworth," "Daniels" and "Richardson," machines are among their products.

Iron-working machinery is made by David W. Pond, P. Blaisdell & Co., and at the Washburn Machine-Shop connected with the Free Institute.

Machine screws and screws of every kind are made by the Worcester Machine Screw Company.

William Crompton, a native of Preston, England, came to this country in 1836, settling in Taunton. He at once devised and built a loom for the manufacture of fancy cotton goods, obtaining a patent, Nov. 23, 1837, for a design which contained the germ of the loom which has since been brought to a high state of perfection by his son, George Crompton of Worcester. In 1839, William Crompton, at Lowell, adapted his loom to the manufacture of fancy woollens. In 1841 he sold to Messrs. Phelps & Bickford of Worcester, the right to build his looms under a royalty, and in 1841 removed his family here. In 1851 George Crompton entered into partnership with M. A. Furbush, and, obtaining an extension of his father's patent, engaged in the manufacture of fancy looms. The partnership continued until 1859, since which time Mr. Crompton has been proprietor and manager of what has now become the very extensive business of the Crompton Loom Works. Many improvements and modifications in the original loom have been made, and Mr. Crompton has taken out about fifty patents for his own inventions. For about six years past Horace Wyman, superintendent of the works, has been associated with him in the invention and issue of patents, and by purchase and assignment Mr. Crompton has secured control of some fifty other patents relating to his business.

In the summer of 1870 George Crompton associated with other gentlemen to form a corporation under the name of the Crompton Carpet Company, and



purchased a tract of land with an old water-privilege at South Worcester, on which buildings were erected and filled with machinery for the manufacture of carpets. In the autumn of 1871 a mill was built by this company and leased by Mr. Crompton for the manufacture of worsted yarns, under the name of the Pakachoag Mill. In 1875 another mill was built, and leased to the Wicks Manufacturing Company for the manufacture of worsted goods. In June, 1879, the Crompton Carpet Company ceased the manufacture of carpets, selling its machinery to Messrs. Wm. James Hogg & Co., of Philadelphia, who took a lease of the mills which had been operated by the Carpet Company, and continued the manufacture of carpets. Mr. Crompton has recently built an addition to the Pakachoag Mill and purchased additional machinery, thereby doubling the previous production of yarn.

Mr. Crompton has never sought for public office, but as an alderman he took a prominent part in the introduction of the waters of Lynde Brook into the city, and was chairman of the commission appointed to superintend the rebuilding of the dam, which was carried away, with disastrous results, a few years ago. He is director in the Worcester Bank, was chairman of the committee which built the Soldiers' Monument, and is a public-spirited citizen.

Lucius J. Knowles, a native of Hardwick, engaged in the manufacture of looms at Warren, with his brother, F. B. Knowles. In 1866 this branch of his business was removed to Worcester, where it has since been conducted. The looms first made by the firm were constructed to weave narrow fabrics, which still constitute an important part of the product of the firm. In 1863 Mr. L. J. Knowles took out his first patent for an open-shed fancy cassimere loom, which he has recently adapted to the weaving of many new fabrics, and he has devised mechanisms by which almost every kind of fancy textile fabrics, whether of cotton, wool or silk, can be readily produced. Mr. Knowles has an inventive genius which has produced other important inventions besides his looms. He has been engaged in the manufacture of cotton and woolen; and the Knowles Steam Pumps, which he manufactures in large quantities at Warren, have a world-wide reputation. He has been State senator, alderman, president of the Board of Trade, and is now president of the People's Savings Bank and a trustee of the Free Institute.

The Gilbert Loom Company (Charles W. Gilbert, manager) manufacture a variety of looms, and have a high reputation for their work.

The oldest car factory in America is that of Osgood Bradley, on Grafton Street, next south, and across the railroad from the foundry of Mr. McFarland. These works cover an acre or more of ground, and give employment to an average force of one hundred and twenty men.

Loring and Aury G. Coes, natives of Worcester, began the manufacture of the "Coes Wrench" here in 1841, with the assistance of Henry W. Miller. In May, 1845, they made their first purchase of land at New Worcester. In 1853, with Levi Hardy, they began the manufacture of shear-blades and hay-cutter

knives. Prior to the dissolution of their partnership in 1869 they had become the owners of large tracts of lands, mills and other buildings, and had created a large additional reservoir for their water-power. The firm of L. Coes & Co. (M. O. Whittier) are now engaged in the manufacture of shear-blades and wrenches, while the firm of A. G. Coes & Co. devote themselves to the wrench business especially. Mr. A. G. Coes died in 1875, and was succeeded by his sons, John H. and Frederick L., under the same firm-name.

Albert Curtis, grandson of Samuel Curtis, one of the leading Whigs of the Revolutionary era, served as apprentice to Messrs. White & Boyden, manufacturers of woolen machinery at South Worcester, and engaged in the same business at New Worcester, in 1831, with John Simmons and Abel Kimball. In 1844 he engaged in the manufacture of cotton sheetings, and in 1852 purchased the mill at Trowbridgeville for the same purpose. In 1857 he added the manufacture of satinets to his other business, and in 1862 he took as a partner in the manufacture of woolen machinery Mr. Edwin T. Marble, who has special charge of that department, while Mr. Curtis superintends his manufacture of satinets, woolens and horse blankets.

The manufacture of metallic reeds for musical instruments is carried on on a large scale by Andrew H. Hammond, who took out his first patent in 1859. He has obtained additional patents, and has built up a large and profitable business.

The Munroe Organ Reed Company do an extensive business, making the Munroe Patent Organ Reed and other organ materials. They are about removing to a large building erected for them on Union Street by Hon. Stephen Salisbury. A very large business is done annually in the manufacture of organs, especially of such as are for use in the parlor, school-room or hall. The Loring & Blake Organ Co., on Union Street; the Taylor & Farley Organ Co., on Hermon Street, and the Taber Organ Co., on May Street, are the principal manufacturers, employing a very large number of operatives.

The steam-engine which furnished power for the great exposition at Paris in 1878, receiving the grand prize, was manufactured by Jerome Wheelock of this city. The quality of his work is attested by the double compliment paid him at Paris.

Steam-boilers of every dimension are made by William Allen & Son, and by Charles Stewart & Son.

The leather belting required in connection with the vast amount of machinery employed in the city, is made, to a great extent, by the Graton & Knight Manufacturing Co., which have a tannery of their own, and whose business is on a large scale. H. O. Hudson is also a manufacturer of belting.

The manufacture of boots and shoes has developed in Worcester to such an extent as to overtop nearly every other industry. Heavy boots for men's wear are the special feature of the trade. The great house of J. H. & G. M. Walker have a large factory at the corner of Winter and Water streets, and

their special brands are known through a very wide range of country. Mr. Walker is also the head of the great leather and tannery firm of Walker, Oakley & Co., of Chicago. S. R. Heywood & Co., another large firm, are building a new factory opposite the Messrs. Walker's extensive works. H. B. Fay & Co., C. H. Fitch & Co., D. G. Rawson & Co., and E. H. Stark & Co. are among the twenty-five or more prominent firms engaged in this business. The Bay State Shoe and Leather Co. are the principal manufacturers of ladies shoes. They have a large factory here, with headquarters in New York.

Fire-arms are made in Worcester to a large amount. The house of Forehand & Wadsworth is successor to the old firm of Allen & Thurber, and turns out all sizes of revolver-pistols and breech-loading shot-guns and rifles. Mr. Frank Wesson manufactures his well-known breech-loading rifle and the Creedmoor rifle; and Johnson, Bye & Co., Harrington & Richardson, and C. B. Holden make a variety of small-arms.

Lasts are made in large numbers by S. Mawhinney & Co. and Colby & Porter.

Some account of the business of the Union Water-meter Company may be gathered from the biography of Mayor Ball on a preceding page. Water-meters are also made by Wm. E. Draper & Co.

A complete account of the manufactures of Worcester would fill a volume by itself. Enough has been said to give an idea of their immense variety, although but a small number have been named.

Some gentlemen, resident here, have large interests in other places. C. W. & J. E. Smith, sons of John Smith, late of Barre, who was one of the pioneers in the cotton manufacture, have large mills at Barre, Shirley and Auburn.

Mr. Addison Macullar was a pioneer in the sale of ready-made clothing here, more than thirty years ago. Seeking a wider field, he established the great house of Macullar, Williams & Parker of Boston (now Macullar, Parker & Co., and of which he continues a member), and, some years later, a branch house at Providence. He re-established his home in Worcester a few years ago, and, with his son, has recently opened a clothing-house here, in Lincoln Block.

Many of the institutions of Worcester are so far related to the county or the State, as to bring them into the field of the county proper. Such will be found described in the general history in the first volume of this work.

The same causes which have developed the village of fifty years ago into the Worcester of to-day, still exists; and in the new era of general prosperity which appears to have begun, we may look to see the city take another stride forward, and reap the benefit which cannot fail to accrue from the intelligence, skill and enterprise of its inhabitants.



### ERRATA.

In Vol. I., page 378, line 8, for "house" read "houses."

" " 607, line 38, for "John W. Washburn" read "John M. Washburn."

" " 612, line 35, for "N. T. Brown" read "N. P. Brown."

" " 570, credit is to be given to Mr. Jonathan Moore for services in writing the history of Holden, in connection with Maj. Isaac Damon.

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In Vol. II., page 72, line 3 from bottom, for "Dec. 12, 1877," read "Dec. 12, 1876."

" " 118, line 4 from bottom, for "Mrs. Howard" read "Mrs. Rowlandson."

" same page and line, for "1679" read "1676 (new style)."

" same page, line 3 from bottom, for "was killed by the Indians," read "died and was buried."

" page 269, the name of the author of the history of Shrewsbury should appear as "George A. Stockwell, A. M.," instead of "Samuel I. Howe, Esq."

# INDEX.

## VOL. II.

### TOWN OF LEOMINSTER.

- Aqueduct Water, 5.  
Acres in the Town, 2.  
Agriculture, 24.  
Adams, Dr., his Arithmetic, 27.  
Arch Bridge of Stone, 20.  
  
Bank, National, 27.  
    " Savings, 27.  
Baptist Church, Central, and Ministers, 24.  
Bascom, Rev. William, 12.  
Bigelow, Abijah, Esq., 27.  
Books, School, 15.  
Boundaries, 2.  
Bontelle, Col. Timothy, 26.  
Brick, 3.  
Buildings, Public, 27.  
  
Catholic Congregation and pastors, 14-15.  
Centre Common, 11, 20.  
Children's Carriages, 24.  
Chualoom Pond, 23.  
Clay and Sand, 3.  
Committee, School, 16.  
Conant, Rev. Abel, 12-13.  
Congregational Society of Christ, 13, 15.  
    " (Orthodox) Society, and its meeting-houses, 13.  
    " (Unitarian) Society, First, 13, 20.  
  
Congressmen, 27.  
  
Deed of Tahanto, 8-9.  
  
Evangelical Society, 13.  
  
Farming Lands, 3.  
Fertility, 3.  
Fire Department, 27.  
French and Indian War, 26.  
Gardner, Rev. Francis, 12.  
  
G. A. R. Post, 27.  
Geological Formation, 3.  
Graded Schools, 16.  
Granite Rock, 3.  
Growing Families, 8.  
  
High School, 16, 18.  
Hills' Names, 3.  
Hills, Obadiah, 24.  
Homes ruled by love, 8.  
Horn-comb-making, 24.  
  
Incorporation, 9.  
Indians, 5.  
Intervale, 3.  
  
Johnson, Asa, Esq., 27.  
  
Kendall, Jonas H., 18-19.  
Kimball, Rev. O. D., 14.  
  
Lancaster wise in Affairs, 8.  
Leominster, 2; settled from Lancaster, 7.  
Library, Town, 27.  
Lodges and Societies, 27.  
Location of the Town, 2.  
  
Manufactures, Various, 24-25.  
Meeting-house, first, 10; second, 11.  
Meeting, town, 10-11.  
Merriam, Hon. Charles H., 2, 23.  
Methodist Society, 13-14.  
Military Company, Ancient, 26.  
    " Spirit, 25-26.  
Money, School, divided, 16.  
Monument, Soldiers', 21, 26.  
  
Nashua River, 3.  
New Cemetery, 22.  
New Grant, 3, 8.  
New Streets, 20.  
Noble Wives, 8.

Officers, First, chosen, 10.  
Old Cemetery, 21-22.

Paper-making, 25.  
Parish severed from Town, 12-13.  
Park, Public, 21.  
Peabody, Dr. Jacob, 27.  
Piano-cases, 25.  
Politics, 26.  
Ponds and Reservoirs, 4-5.  
Precinct, Second, 12.  
Printing and Papers, 27.  
Professional Men, 27.

Railroad, Fitchburg, 24.  
" Old Colony, 24.

Reading-room, 27.  
Reform Club, 27.  
Representatives, 26-27.  
Reservoirs, Capacity of, 24.  
Revolution, The, Men in it, 26.  
Roads, 19, 20.  
Rogers, Rev. John, 11-12, 27.

Savage, Rev. William H., 13.  
Scar, The, 3.  
Scenes of rare Beauty, 3.  
Schools, 15, 18.  
Senators, 27.

Settlers, First, their Character, 7-8.  
Shays opposed, 26.  
Sholan, 5.  
Smith, Rev. E. M., 14.  
" " E. G., 15.  
Stone Bridge, 19-20.  
Surface, varied, 3.

Tahanto, George, 2, 8.  
Tahanto's Grant, Proprietors of, 6.  
Tanning Business, 25.  
Town Meeting, first, 10.  
Towns as parishes, 11.  
Training-field, 22.  
Trees, Variety of, 5.  
Turnpikes, 24.

Unitarian Meeting-house, 11.

Valley of the Nashua, 3.  
Volumes in the Library, 27.

Water Privileges, 3, 4.  
Water, Pure, Supply of, 23.  
Water-Works, 22-24.  
War of 1812-15, 26.  
" of the Rebellion, 26.  
Wells, 3.  
Whitney, F. A., Company, 24-25.  
Wilder, Hon. David, 7.

## TOWN OF LUNENBURG.

Adams, Rev. Zabdiel, 38-39.  
Adventists, The, 39.

Bellows Family, 32.  
Book-bindery, 31.  
Boundaries, 33.  
Bounties, 35.  
Brick-making, 31.  
Bridle-paths and Roads, 31.  
Brooks and Reservoirs, 31.  
Button-wood Tree, 34.

Cunningham, Mrs. N. F., 41.

Days of the Revolution, 34.

Eagle, Bald, 35.  
Estabrook, Adin C., 28.

Farmers' Club, 32-33.  
Fitchburg set off, 33.  
Fitch, John, captured, 30.

Gardner, Rev. Andrew, 38.  
Garrison Houses, 30.  
Grant of Township, 28.

Hartwell, Edward, 29.

Hills, Names of, 30.  
History of the Town, 41.

Indians, 29.

Land, Fertile, 32.  
Library, 40.  
Loom and Spinning-wheel, 31.  
Lots, School and College, 29.  
Lowe Brothers, 39.  
Lunenburg, 28; named, 30.  
Lyon, John E., 35.

Meeting-house, 38.  
Methodists, The, 39.  
Militia ready to march, 34.  
Mills, 31.

Names of Soldiers, 1861-5, 35-6.

Officers, Town, Names of, 40.  
Origin of the Town, 28.  
Orthodox Society, 38; Ministers, 39.

Page, Samuel, a Squatter, 28.  
Payson, Rev. Samuel, 38.  
Physicians, 40.



Poor, Provision for, 39.  
 Potash, 31.  
 Proprietors, Names of, 29.  
 Representatives, 41.  
 Revolution, The, cost of, 34.  
 Roads, 31-2.  
 Schools, 36; masters, 36-7.  
 Settlers, First, from Lancaster, 29.  
 Shays' Outbreak, 35.  
 Slave sent to War, 34.

Soldiers in the Revolution, 34.  
 Spider Cake, 32.  
 Tanneries, 31.  
 Town Hall, First, 39.  
 Unitarians, The, 38; Ministers of, 39.  
 Universalism, 39.  
 War of 1812; Drafted Men, 35.  
 War of the Rebellion, 35.  
 Woods, 30.

## TOWN OF MENDON.

Adams, Dr. Joseph, 49.  
 Absconder, 49.  
 Alexander, Rev. Caleb, 58.  
 Association, Mendon, 60.  
 Ballou, Rev. Adin, 59.  
 Bills of Credit, 46.  
 Blackstone Canal, 60.  
 Blackstone Factory Village, 55.  
 Boundaries, 43.  
 Boundary Line adjusted, 48.  
 Bounty for Wolves, 44.  
 Bounty to Soldiers, 51.  
 Boyce, Wm., School-master, 52.  
 Building a School-house, 47.  
 Burying-yard, 46-7.  
 Centennial Celebration, 51.  
 Channing, Rev. George G., 60.  
 Clarke of the Writts, 44.  
 Col Crowne, 45.  
 Corn-mill, Nearest, 44.  
 Cotton Mills, 60.  
 Crooked Stick, 45.  
 Democratic till 1861, 61.  
 Division of the Town, 1845, 55.  
 Doggett, Rev. Simeon, 59.  
 Dorr, Rev. Joseph, 57.  
 Education, 52.  
 Eight Miles Square, 42.  
 Emerson, Joseph, 56.  
 Expenditures in 1878, 62.  
 Farming Land, Excellent, 61.  
 Farnum, Welcome, 60.  
 Fire-Engine, 52.  
 Fish Commissioners, 51.  
 Fish in Pawtucket River, 46-7.  
 Fish, Rev. Preserved, 59.  
 Friends' Meeting-house, 60.  
 French War in 1755-63, 48.  
 Fort William Henry, 48.

Graduates of College, 62.  
 Grammar School, 53.  
 Grants, 42.  
 Great Sickness, 47.  
 Grist-mill, 44.  
 Harrison Hall a Town Hall, 50.  
 High School, 51.  
 Hills, Names of, 43.  
 Home Industries, 61.  
 Hospital, Small-pox, 49.  
 Hous of Intertainment, 45.  
 Inconveniencies, 44.  
 Incorporated, 42.  
 Indian Alarm, 46.  
 Inhabitants killed in 1675, 43.  
 King Philip's War, 43.  
 Latin School-master, 52.  
 Liabilities of the Town in 1879, 62.  
 Licenses voted down, 50-1.  
 Lock-up for Tramps, 52.  
 Matoonas, 43.  
 Meddo, 44.  
 Meeting-house, 56-7.  
 Mendon, 42; burned, 43.  
 Metcalf, John G., 42.  
 Methodist Society, 60.  
 Milford Incorporated, 49.  
 Militia, Enrolled, 50.  
 Mills and Shops, 61.  
 Mill River Precinet, 58.  
 Natmocke, 42.  
 Nipmuck Indians, 43.  
 Noon-House, 57.  
 North Congregational Church, 60.  
 Officers, Town, 62.  
 Patriotism, 48, 61.  
 Poor-Farm, 51.

Population in 1764, 48.  
 Precinct, The South, 58.  
 Proprietors' Records, 45.  
 Puffer, Matthias, 43.  
 Purchase of the Indians, 42.  
 Railroad, 60.  
 Rawson, Grindal, 52.  
 Rawson, Rev. Grindal, 47, 52, 56.  
 Rayner, Rev. John, 56.  
 Revenue, Surplus, 50.  
 Roads, 47.  
 Rules in regard to Lots, 44.  
 Salary of the Minister, 57.  
 Saw-mill, First, 45.  
 Schools and School-houses, 50, 53-5.  
 Selectmen, First, 44.  
 Shays' Rebellion, 49.  
 Six Families more, 45.

Squatters, 46.  
 Staples, Abraham, 46.  
 Taxes, 45-7.  
 Timber, 43.  
 Tomb, Receiving, 50.  
 Town Meeting, First, 44.  
 Tything-men, 46.  
 Unitarian Meeting-house, 60.  
 Valuation in 1771, 48; in 1781, 49.  
 Wages on the Highway, 47.  
 Warnings out of Town, 48.  
 War of the Rebellion, 51.  
 War of 1812, 49.  
 Willard, Rev. Joseph, 58.  
 Wolves killed in 1699, 46.  
 Woodchucks, 52.

## TOWN OF MILFORD.

Agricultural Society, 89.  
 Altitude, Mean, 64.  
 Amusements, 91.  
 Appropriations for Schools, 82.  
 Area and Acreage, 64.  
 Artillery Company, 80.  
 Associations and Corporations, 89.  
 Ballou, Rev. Adin, 64.  
 Banks, 71, 89.  
 Baptist Church and Ministers, 75.  
 Bear Hill, 67.  
 Board of Health, 82.  
 Boots and Shoes, 69.  
 Bragg, Col. Ariel, 84.  
 Brick Church, 73.  
 Broomshire, 65.  
 Business Establishments, 96.  
 Business in 1837; in 1855; in 1875; 70.  
 Catholic Cemetery, 68.  
     "    Church, 76.  
 Cedar Swamp Pond, 66-7.  
 Cemeteries, 87-8.  
 Central Section, 63.  
 Charles River, 66.  
 Chapin, Rev. Dr. Stephen, 92.  
 Churches, 71.  
 Church of Christ, Congregational, 65, 71-3.  
 Claflin, A., Country Seat, 67.  
     "    Hon. Lee, 74.  
 Claflins, Several, 93-4.  
 Co. A, Volunteer, 80.  
 Conservatism, 71.  
 Commons, 86.  
 Co. M, Volunteer Militia, 81.

Distinguished Men, 92-4.  
 District Court, 88.  
 Division in Parish, 72.  
 Dramatic Exhibitions, 91.  
 Easterly Section, 67.  
 Edifices, Church, 72-3.  
 Education, 81-2.  
 Eminences, Highland, 67.  
 Episcopal Church, 75; Rectors of, 76.  
 Factories, 96.  
 Farmers' Club, 90.  
 Farms and Homesteads, 95.  
 Farm for the Poor, 84.  
 Fauna and Flora, 68.  
 Father Cuddihy, 77.  
 Fire Companies and Engines, 85.  
 Friends of Progress, 78.  
 Frost, Rev. Amariah, 65, 71.  
 G. A. R. Post 22, 81.  
 Geology, 68.  
 Granite Quarries, 68.  
 Great Meadow, 67-8.  
 Gneiss Rock, 68.  
 Graduates, 83.  
 Growth of Town slow till 1845, 68.  
 Guards, The Mayhew, 81.  
 Halls, 91.  
 Heel-Factory, 96.  
 History of the Town, 99.  
 Hopedale, 67, 96-8.  
     "    Community, 78.  
     "    Parish, 77.  
     "    Village, 78.

- Hotels, 71.  
 Hunt, Hon. Ezra, 92.  
 Incorporation, 65.  
 Increase of Catholics, 77.  
 Independent Christian Society, 73.  
 Industries, Various, 70-1.  
 Industrial Productions, 69.  
 Infantry, Ordinary, 80.  
 Lafayette Guards, 80.  
 Latitude and Longitude, 64.  
 Leffel Turbine-wheel, 97.  
 Library, Town, 83.  
 Lodges, Masonic, 90.  
 Long, Rev. David, 72.  
 Magomiscook Hill, 67.  
 Maps, 99.  
 Maspenock Pond, 66.  
 Medical Association, 90.  
 Meeting-House, 65.  
 Methodist Meeting-Houses, 74.  
 Methodists, 74; Ministers of, 74-5.  
 Milford, 64; part of Mendon, 64.  
     "    Cadets, 81.  
     "    Centre, 95.  
     "    Journal, 98.  
 Military against the Rebellion, 81.  
     "    Record, 79.  
 Mill River People, 65.  
 Money Spent in the War, 81.  
 Nelson, Hon. A. H., 93.  
     "    Rev. Levi, 92.  
 Nipmucks, 64.  
 Officers, Military, 80-1.  
     "    Town, 88.  
 Opposition to Shays, 80.  
 Orthodox Minister, 65.  
     "    Ministers, Names of, 72.  
 Parties, Town and Parish, 72.  
 Pine Grove Cemetery, 68.  
 Police Court, 88.  
 Poor, The, Cared for, 81.  
 Population, Increase of, 69.  
     "    in 1780, 65; plucky, 65.  
 Post-Offices, 88.  
 Precinct in 1741, 65.  
 Press, The, 98.  
 Printing-Offices, 98.  
 Private Schools and Academy, 83.  
 Professional Men, 71.  
 Railroad, 69; Branch, 70.  
 Railroads, 89.  
 Rattlesnakes, 68.  
 Rawson, Edward, 65.  
 Religious History, 71.  
 Rich-toned bell, 76.  
 Roads and Streets, 85-6.  
 Rocky Woods, 67.  
 Roman Catholics, 67.  
 Romantic Scenery, 66.  
 Sawyer Spindle, The, 97.  
 Scammell, Dr., 65.  
     "    Gen. Alexander, 79-80.  
 Schools, 82-3.  
 School Committees, 83.  
 School-houses, 82.  
 Screws, Clinching, 96.  
 Sectaries multiplied, 72.  
 Settlement, Time of, 64-5.  
 Situation of the Town, 64.  
 Societies, many, 90.  
 Spinning-rings, 98.  
 Spiritualists, 78.  
 St. Mary's Church, 78.  
 Stone semi-cathedral, 76-7.  
 Steeler, Rev. Adam, 73.  
 Surveys of the Town, 99.  
 Tanning, 69.  
 Temple Company, 97.  
 Thayer, Hon. Jonathan, 92.  
 Topography, 66.  
 Train band, 80.  
 Trinity Parish, 75.  
 Underwood, Gen. A. B., 81, 94.  
 Universalist Society, 73; Preachers, 73-4.  
 Valuation, 69, 89.  
 Volunteer Militia, 80.  
 War of 1755-9, 79; of the Revolution, 79-80.  
 Westerly Section, 66.  
 Wild Beasts and Birds, 68.

# TOWN OF MILLBURY.

- Academy, 113-14.  
 Armory and Goodell Villages, 101.  
 Armory Building, 106.  
 Arms—Muskets, Rifles, Pistols, 110.  
 Atlanta Mills, 109.  
 Bank and Post-Office, 101.  
 Banks, 115-16.  
 Baptist Church and Ministers, 105.  
 Blackstone Canal, 102.  
 Blackstone River, 100.



- Blanchard, Thomas, 112.  
 Books, School, Hymn and Tune, 107.  
 Boots and Shoes, 110.  
 Boundaries, 100.  
 Bramanville, 101.  
 Broadcloths, 106.  
 Burbank, Gen. Caleb, 107.  
 Burling Mills—Beavercloth, 108.  
  
 Cam Motion, 112.  
 Cambridge Platform, 103.  
 Catholic Church, Pastors of, 105.  
 Centre of Millbury, 101.  
 Chaplin, Rev. Ebenezer, 103.  
 Church Edifices, 101.  
 Congregational Church in West Millbury,  
     formed and disbanded, 105.  
 Congregational Church, Second, Pastors of,  
     104.  
 Congregational Society, First, 101.  
     “           “       in West Millbury, 101.  
 Cordis Mills, 106, 109.  
 Cotton Mills, 109.  
 Crane & Waters, 106.  
  
 Diplomas, High School, 114.  
 Dr. Watts' Hymns, 103.  
  
 Edge-tool Factory, 109.  
 Era of Growth, 102.  
 Ewell, Rev. J. L., 104.  
  
 First Church in Millbury, New, 103; Pastors  
     of, 104.  
  
 Gough, John B.'s First Lecture, 115.  
 Gow, Rev. G. B., 105.  
 Grass Hill, 101.  
 Guns Wrought by Hand, 110; by Water-  
     power, 111.  
  
 Hand-filing, 113.  
 High School, 114.  
 Holbrook, Rev. I., 115.  
 Holman, Rev. Sidney, 105.  
 Hosiery Mill, 108.  
 Houses of Worship, 103-4.  
  
 Incorporation, 101-2.  
 Industries, various, 109.  
 Irregular Forms turned, 112.  
 Inventions, Important, 103.  
  
 Library, Free Public, 114.  
 Linseed-oil Factory, 108.  
 Location, 100.  
 Lodges, Masonic, 114.  
 Lyceum, The First, 115.  
  
 Machine Shop, 108.  
 Meeting-house removed to Bramanville, 104.  
  
 Methodist Church, 104; Pastors of, 104-5.  
 Millbury, 100.  
     “       against the Rebellion, 116-17.  
     “       Guards, 115.  
 Milling Machine, 113.  
 Mill, The First, 106.  
 Mines of Salisbury, 110.  
 Mount Zion, 103.  
  
 Natural Scenery, 100.  
  
 Old Common, 101, 103.  
  
 Paper Mill, First, 107.  
 Pioneers of Temperance, 115.  
 Ponds, 100.  
 Post-Office and Postmasters, 116.  
 Powder Mill, 116.  
 Print Goods, 108.  
 Private Armories, 111.  
 Products of Mills, Total Annual, 110.  
 Putnam, Rev. George A., 104.  
  
 Railroad Company, Providence and Worces-  
     ter, 102.  
 Railroad Stations, 101.  
 Representatives, 117.  
  
 Sash and Blind Works, 108.  
 Satinet Mill, 109.  
 Scythe Shop, 107, 111.  
 Schools, 113-114; Money for, 114.  
 Scott, Gen. Winfield, 113.  
 Second Church in Sutton, 103.  
 Senators, 117.  
 Singletary Village, 101.  
 Soldiers killed, 117.  
 Statistics, 117.  
 Stockwell, George A., 100.  
 Stores and Factories, 101.  
  
 Talcott, Gen. George, 113.  
 Ticking, 109.  
 Town Hall, 114.  
     “       Meeting, First, 102.  
     “       Officers, First, 102.  
  
 Waters, Asa and Andrus, 110.  
     “       Asa, 2d, 110-13.  
     “       Col. Asa H., 111, 113, 117.  
     “       Dea. Elijah, 111.  
     “       Henry, 111.  
     “       Horace, 106.  
     “       Samuel, 106.  
 Water-supply, 100.  
 Wellman, Rev. James, 103.  
 West Millbury, 101.  
 Wheeler Cotton-mills, 106.  
 Woolen Factory, 107; Cloth, 109.

## TOWN OF NEW BRAINTREE.

- Agriculture, 125.  
 Articles of Confederation, 123.  
 Baptism of Children, 121.  
 Boston thanked, 122.  
 Boundaries and shape, 118.  
 Bounds established, 125.  
 Bounties in 1777, 123; in 1861-5, 125-6.  
 Bowman, Hon. Joseph, 127.  
 Cheese Company, 125.  
 Church and State, 124.  
     " First gathered, 121.  
     " Reorganized, 121.  
 Colonels, 127.  
 Committee of Reference, 124.  
 Congregational Parish, 125.  
 Creed and Covenant, 121.  
 Deacons, Names of, 121.  
 Delano, Philip, 119.  
 Delegates to Congresses, 123.  
 Education, 119.  
 Embargo opposed, 125.  
 Fees of Court, high, 123.  
 Fever, Spotted, 125.  
 First Fire, 124.  
 Fiske, Rev. Dr. John, 119-20, 127.  
 Foster, Rev. Daniel, 120.  
 Friends of Capt. Shays, 124.  
 Graduate of Colleges, 119.  
 Grammar School, 121.  
 Great Bridge, 124.  
 Harmonious Community, 119.  
 Incorporation, 118.  
 Indian outwitted, 119.  
     " Settlement, 118.  
 Insurgents swearing allegiance, 124.  
 Jealous of Rulers, 124.  
 Lawsuits discouraged, 124.  
 Lawyers, extortion of, 123.  
 Lincoln, Gen., 124.  
 Meeting-house, First, New; remodelled, 120.  
 Men and Horses, Quota of, in 1778, 123.  
 Milk, pounds of, 125.  
 Minister, Care in choosing, 120.  
 Ministers, Names of, 121.  
 Minute-men in 1775, 126.  
 Mixter, Hon. Samuel, 127.  
 Monument, stone, 118.  
 New Braintree, 118.  
 Parade Ground, 125.  
 Pleuro-pneumonia, 125.  
 Politics, 119.  
 Population, 118.  
 Poor, State, Support of, 124.  
     " Town, " 125.  
 Prominent Local Officers, 126.  
 Powder and Lead, Stock of, 123.  
 Rebellion, The, action against, 125.  
 Regulators, The, in 1787, 124.  
 Representatives, 126.  
 Resolutions in 1774, 122.  
 Revolution, The, Spirit of the People, 122.  
 Ruggles, Rev. Benjamin, 120.  
 Sabbath School, First, in 1817, 125.  
 Salary of Ministers, 120.  
 Saltpetre, 125.  
 Schools, 121-2; School-houses, 121.  
 Square Miles, 118.  
 Stoves in Meeting-house, 125.  
 Supervision of Schools, 122.  
 Surface, 118.  
 Temperance House, 125.  
 Town Clerks, List of, 127.  
 Tufts, George K., 118.  
 Twelve Men slain, 119.  
 Valuation, 118.  
 Volunteers in 1861-5, 126.  
 Wages of soldiers, 126-7.  
 Warner, Capt. Eleazar, 119.  
 War of 1812-15, 125.  
 Winnimisset, 118.

## TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH.

- Acreage, 128.  
 Allen, Joseph, D. D., 128, 133.  
 Anti-Slavery, 135.  
 Appropriation for Schools, 132.  
 Ashley, Rev. S. S., 135.  
 Assabet River, 128.  
 Assembly's Catechism a Creed, 130.  
 Bond, Rev. H. F., 131.  
 Boundaries, 128.

- Brigham, John, 129.  
 Brooks and River, 128.  
 Burgoyne's Army, 129.
- Church, Baptist, organized, 131; pastors and meeting-house, 131.  
 " First, organized, 130.
- Clothiers' Business, 136.  
 Comb Business, 138.  
 Concord and Bunker Hill, 134.  
 Conneticoat Road, Old and New, 129.  
 Corset-stitching, 138.  
 Cotton cloth, 136.
- Davis, Isaac, 137.  
 " Hon. Isaac, 139.  
 " " John, 139.
- Dutton, Rev. Horace, 128.
- Early Settlers, Names of, 129.  
 Eminent Men, 139.  
 Evangelical Congregational Society, 131; Pastors and Meeting-houses of, 131.
- Free-Soil Party, Origin of, 135.  
 Fulling-mill, 136.
- Gale, Hon. Cyrus, 139.  
 Garrison and Tavern, 129.  
 Goodenow, Thomas, 132.  
 Great Road, 129.
- Healthy and pleasant, 128.  
 Hides, 137.  
 High School, 132.  
 Hildreth, Hon. Milo, 138.  
 Hills, 128.  
 Hydraulics, wonderful, 137.
- Incorporation, 129.  
 Indians disguised, 134.  
 Iron Ore and Works, 136.
- Jewelry, Tortoise-shell, 138.
- Ladies, patriotic, in 1861-5, 135.
- Libraries, 133.  
 Location of Town, 128.  
 Lyceum, 132.
- Manufacturing Company, 137.  
 Martyn, Rev. John, 130.  
 Meeting-house, 129-31.  
 Milk-train, 138.  
 Mills and Shops, 137.  
 Mill-work, 136.  
 Ministers of First Church, 130.  
 Minute-men, 134.  
 Monument, Soldiers', 136.
- Northborough, 128.
- Oldest Settlers, 129-39.
- Parsonage, Orthodox, 132.  
 Ponds, 128.  
 Post of G. A. R., 136.  
 Potash, 136.  
 Primeval Lake, 128.
- Salary of First Minister, 130.  
 " Schoolmaster, 132.
- Satinets, 138.  
 Schools, 132; First School-house, 132.  
 Seminary Association, 132.  
 Shoe and Boot Business, 137.  
 Squadrons, 132.
- Tanning and Currying, 137.  
 Tea, Bags of, burnt in 1773, 134.  
 Teachers, 132.  
 Tillson, Rev. J., 131.  
 Tories, 134-5.
- War of the Rebellion, 135.  
 War, Revolutionary, 134.  
 War, Old French, 134.  
 Whitney, Rev. Peter, 136.  
 Woman Casting Bullets, 134.  
 Wool-carding by Machinery, 137.

## TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE.

- Air, salubrious, 140.
- Barefooted, 145.
- Batcheller, Maj. David, 142-3.
- Blackstone River, 140, 144.
- Bliss, Rev. Aaron, 141.
- Boot and Shoe Business, 145-6.
- Boundaries, 140.
- Bounties, 154.
- Brick-mill, 144.
- Business, Rise of, 144.
- Carey, Rev. Seth C., 151.
- Church, Catholic, 151.
- Church in Whitinsville, 150.
- Church, First, organized in 1782, 141, 149; ministers of, 150.
- Clark, Dr. R. R., 153.  
 " Rev. L. F., 141-2, 146, 149.
- Cloth Company, 144.
- Continental Congress, 141.
- Coopering, 141.
- Cost of the late War, 154.
- Cotton Goods, 144; Spinning, 144.  
 " Manufactures, 147.



Cotton used, 155.  
Crane, Rev. John, 142; Character of, 142.

Deacons, Names of, 151.  
Dwellings, neat, elegant, 148.

Education, 151.  
Emmons, Rev. Dr., 142.

Farming, 144.  
Fertility of Soil, 140.  
Firm of Whitins dissolved, 148.  
Fletcher, Ezra W., 156.  
    " Miss Sarah, 156.  
    " Miss, Wife Col. Whitin, 147.

Foreign-born Element, 151.  
Foundry in 1790, 144.  
Four-room School-house, 153.

Geological Formation, 141.  
Grain and Saw Mills, 144.  
Granite, 141.

Haunters of Taverns unknown, 144.  
High School, 153.  
Holbrook, Sylvanus, 144.

Incorporation, 140-1.  
Intervale, 140.  
Iron-ore, 141.  
Iron-works, 144.

King George, discarded, 143:

Library, Social, Free, 156.  
Linwood, 149.  
Linseed-oil Mill, 144.  
Location and Extent of Town, 140.  
Lyceum, Lecture Course, 156.

Machine-shops, large, 148, 155.  
Mechanics, 144.

Meeting-house, First, 149; new, 151.  
    " Friends', 143.

Methodist Meetings, 151.  
    " Church organized, 151.  
    " Parsonage, 151.

Meetings in Uxbridge, 141.  
Memorial Hall, 156.  
Men in the Army, 143.  
Mill at Linwood, 155.

Mill Rockdale, 155.  
    " Whitinsville, 155.  
Mumford River, 140, 155.

National Bank, 155.  
"Nigger" Shoes, 145.  
Northbridge, 140.

Patriotic Spirit in 1774, 142-3.  
Pine-Grove Cemetery, 156.  
Preaching, 141.  
Presbyterian Church, 151.  
Population, 148.  
Public Buildings, 149.

Quakers, Families of, 143.

Rebellion, suppressing the, 153.  
Religious Wants, 141.  
Reservoirs, 141.  
Riverdale, 149.  
Road to Prosperity, 147.  
Rockdale, 144, 149.

School Committee, 153.  
Schools and School-houses, 151-3.  
Soldiers in the Revolution, 143.  
Spring, Col. John, 141.  
Springs and Streams, 140.  
State Aid, 154.  
Support of the Gospel, 141.  
Surface, 140.

Tanners and Curriers, 145.  
Taft, Israel, 143.  
Thurston, Rev. John R., 150.  
Thompson, Rev. J. L., 151.  
Town Meeting in 1776, 141.

Volunteers, 154.

Whitin, Col. Paul, 144, 146-7; his sons, 147, 149.

    " Charles P., 148.  
    " James, 148.  
    " John C., Inventor, 147, 155.  
    " Paul, Jr., 147.

Whitinsville, 140, 145-6, 148.  
Whitney, Rev. Peter, 141-3.  
Woolen Goods, 144.

## TOWN OF OAKHAM.

Abstinence, total, 166.  
Backus, Rev. Dr., 166.  
Baptizing Children, 166.  
Boarding round, 167.  
Boots and Shoes, 164.

Boundaries, 157.  
Buildings, public, 156.  
Church, Congregational, 165; Deacons of, 167.  
    " Methodist, 167.  
    " Presbyterian, 165.

Cold Brook, 157.  
 Committee of Correspondence, 162.  
 Congress, Continental, 160.  
 Constitution, State, discussed, 163.  
 Crawford, William, 164.  
 Deacons, First, 165.  
 Decent School-Houses, 167.  
 Delegates to Provincial Congress, 160-1.  
 Ecclesiastical History, 165-6.  
 Education, 167.  
 Fairbank, Major John B., 151.  
 Farm Products, 164.  
 Fixing Prices, 162.  
 Flints, Powder and Lead, 161.  
 Fobes, Dr. Seth, 164.  
 Force of Public Opinion, 161.  
 Foreign-born, 164.  
 Forests, 157.  
 Glory and Pride of the Town, 168.  
 Halliday, Rev. J. C., 167.  
 Hall, Memorial, 165.  
 Hixon, Rev. Asa, 166.  
 House-Building, 158.  
 Houses, Number of, 164.  
 Incorporation, 159.  
 Independence, 161-2.  
 In His Majesty's Name no longer, 162.  
 Inspection of Schools, 167.  
 Kimball, Rev. James, 167.  
 Laws of Finance, fixed, 163.  
 Liberally educated Sons, 167.  
 Liquor, Wine and Lemons, 166.  
 Location of Town, 157.  
 Meeting-House, 159, 166.  
 Memorial for Peace, 164.  
 Mineral Springs, 157.  
 Minister, First, Salary of, 165.  
 Ministers, several, called, 166.

Minute-Men, 161.  
 Money raised in the Revolution, 162.  
 Morton, Rev. Alpha, 167.  
 Naquag, Indian Name, 157.  
 Natick Indians, 157.  
 Oakham in the civil War, 164.  
 " Pride and Glory of, 168.  
 Officers, Town, chosen, 159.  
 One Sabbath's Preaching for £120, 163.  
 Paper stamped, 161.  
 Peloubet, Rev. F. N., 167.  
 Population, 164.  
 Precinct, Petition for, 158.  
 " Meeting, First, 159.  
 Presbyterians, 158.  
 Purchasers, Names of, 157.  
 Revolution, The, 159-163.  
 Sabbath School, 167.  
 Schools, 167-8.  
 School, select, 167.  
 Scotch-Irish, 158.  
 Scotchman's Remark, 165.  
 Settlers, First, Names of, 158.  
 Soil, fertile, 157.  
 Soldiers in the Revolution, 162.  
 Strickland, Rev. John, 165.  
 Surface uneven, 157.  
 Titles to Land, Origin of, 157.  
 Tomlinson, Rev. Daniel, 164, 166.  
 Tories under the ban, 162.  
 Town as a Parish, 165.  
 " Meeting, First, 159.  
 Valuation, 164.  
 Value of Products in 1875, 164.  
 War of the Revolution, 163.  
 " of 1812, 163-4.  
 " of the Rebellion, 164.  
 Warrants, Articles of, 159.  
 West Wing, 159.

## TOWN OF OXFORD.

Acreage, 188.  
 Adams' Army, 179.  
 Agriculture, 181.  
 Allen, Daniel, 171.  
 Ayer, Oliver, 179.  
 Ballou, Rev. Hosea, 179.  
 Bank, 187.  
 Baptist Society, 179; Pastors of, 179.  
 Barton, Hon. Ira M., 181.

Beef for the Army in 1778, 177.  
 Bernon, Gabriel, 170, 173.  
 Bill of Rights, 177.  
 Black, James, 169.  
 Boudet, Daniel, 171.  
 Boundaries, 180.  
 Bounty to Soldiers in 1777, 177.  
 Brooks, Rev. Dr., 179.  
 Buffumsville, 182.  
 Butler's Tavern and Bar-room, 178.

Campbell, Rev. John, 174, 187.  
 Church Edifice, 179.  
 Church Formed, 174.  
 Colony prosperous in 1693, 171.  
 Congregational Society, 178; Pastors of, 178.  
 Constitutional Conventions, Members of, 186.  
 Continental Congress, 175.  
 Crown Point, Soldiers at, 176.

Daniels, George F., 169.  
 David, Capt. Edward, 175.  
     "    "    Samuel, 175.  
     "    George L., 181.  
 Deed of Division, 170.  
 De Witt, Hon. Alexander, 188.  
 Directors of the Bank, 181.  
 Division of Lands, 173.  
 Doeskin and Broadcloth, 183.  
 Dudley, Joseph, 169.

Edict of Nantes, 170.  
 Eliot and Gookin, 169.  
 Emmons, Rev. Amri B., 178.  
 English Settlement, 171.  
 Episcopal Church, 179.  
 Epitaph on Rev. John Campbell, 187.

First Survey, 170.  
 Fort William and Henry, Soldiers for its Relief, 175.  
 French and Indian War, 175.  
 French River, 180.

George III., 176.  
 Glove-leather, 171.  
 Grant by Proprietors, 172.  
     "    the General Court, 169-70.

Hills, 180.  
 Hodges, Mr. George, 179.  
 Hodges, Village, 183.  
 House of Worship, 173.  
 Huguenot Burying-yard, Meeting-House, Mill and Fort, 171.  
 Huguenots, 170.

Independence declared, 176-7.  
 Indians, hostile, in 1694, 171.  
 Indian Settlement, 169.  
 Industries, various, 182.  
 Isaac Bertrand Du Tuffeau, 171.

James, Rev. John, 173.  
 Johnson, John, murdered by Indians, 171;  
     his children, his wife, escaped, 171.

King Philip, 170.

Lamb's Privilege, 185.  
 Learned, Col. and Gen., 183.  
 Library, Public, 181.  
 Location of Oxford, 180.

Manchang, 169.  
 Massacre in 1696, 171.  
 Memorial Hall, 181.  
 Meeting-House, 173; New, 174.  
 Men of Note, 187-8.  
 Methodist Church, 179; Meeting-House and Parsonage, 179.  
 Methodist Ministers, 179.  
 Militia reorganized, 176.  
 Mill Sites, 182.  
 Ministerial People, 174.  
 Ministers, Names of, 174.

Names of Soldiers, 186.  
 New Oxford, 170.  
 New Praying Towns, 169.  
 Nipmuck Country, 169.  
 North Oxford, 183.

Phoenix Village, 184.  
 Physical Outlines, 180.  
 Population, 188.  
 Proclamation of the Proprietors, 172.  
 Protection Mill, 184.  
 Provincial Congress, Delegates to, 176.

Representatives, 186.  
 Revolution, Soldiers in, 177.  
 Rice, Col. Nathan, 178.  
 Rockdale, 184.  
 Rogers, Richard, 185.  
 Rum sold, 178.  
 Ruins of Huguenot Fort, 171.

Satinet Mill, 184.  
 Schools, 181-2.  
 School-house, 175.  
     "    Master, 175.  
 Seythes, Axes and Hoes, 182.  
 Senators, 186.  
 Settlements delayed, 170.  
     "    by English, 173.  
 Ship-stores, 171.  
 Shoemaking, 181.  
 Sigourney, Andrew, 178.  
 Square Miles, 170.  
 State Aid and Bounties, 186.  
 Statistics, 188.  
 Stockwell, George A., 169.  
 Stone, Miss M. E., 183.  
 Stoughton, William, 169.  
 St. Roch's Catholic Church, 179.  
 Support of the Gospel by the Town, 174.



Textile Fabrics, 181.  
 Thompson, Robert, 170.  
 Thread Business, 182-3.  
 Town Meeting, First, 173.  
     " Officers chosen, 173.

Universalist Society, 178; Pastors of, 179.  
 United States Convention of Spiritualists, 178.  
 Valuation, 188.  
 Wilder, Charles W., 179.

## TOWN OF PAXTON.

Agriculture, 195.  
 Agreement of the Minute-men, 192.  
 Anniversary, Centennial, 198.  
 Asnebumskit Hill and Lake, 195.  
 Area, 190.  
 Barrel of Gunpowder, 192.  
 Beef for the Army, 194.  
 Bigelow, Rev. Dr. John F., 198.  
 Biglow, Rev. Silas, 197.  
 Bill, Ledyard, 197.  
 Boots and Shoes, 196.  
 Bounded, 189.  
 Bounties for Soldiers in 1781, 194.  
     " " " " 1861-5, 197-8.

Cards, Manufacture of, 196.  
 Centre of the County, 189.  
 Centre, The, of the Town, 195.  
 Church organized, 196; Pastors, 197.  
 Clothing for Soldiers, 193.  
 Cole, Rev. Otis, 197.  
 Committee on Public Affairs, 192.

Deed of Burying-ground, 194.  
 District: its Powers, 192.  
     " on Public Affairs, 192.

Equipping Minute-men, 193.

Fasting and Prayer in 1774, 192.  
 Fife and Drum, 193.  
 First Town Meeting, 191.  
     " " Town Officers, 191.  
 Founders of the Town, 189.

Gospel Ministers, 196.  
 Granite Shaft, Soldiers', 198.  
 Grants for a Church, 191.

Hancock for Governor, 194.  
 Hill, Forests and Intervale, 195.  
 Hills, rugged and wooded, 189.  
 Howe, Dr. A. J., 198.

Incorporation, 189-90.  
 Indian Corn: Price per Bushel, 194.

Lakes and Ponds, 195.  
 Land Surface, 195.  
 Library, Public, 197.  
 Livermore, George W., 198.  
     " John and Sons, 193.  
     " Mrs., 193.  
 Location, 189.

Meeting-house, 196.  
 Minute Company, 192.  
     " Men, Names of, 192.  
 Money for Soldiers in 1779, 194.  
 Monument, Soldiers', 195.  
 Moore, Capt. Willard, 193.

Negro Seat, 196.

Old People's Seats, 196.

Paxton, Charles, 190; Effigy of, 190.  
 Paxton in the Revolution, 194-5.  
 Phipps, Rev. William, 197.  
 Place-hunter, 191.  
 Precinct Privileges, 190-1.

Representatives, 198.

Schools, 197.  
 School, Grammar, 197.  
 Springs and Rivulets, 198.  
 Standing Company, 192.  
 Statistics, 198.  
 Stockwell, George A., 189.

Tax on Glass, &c., 191.  
 Thayer, Rev. Alexander, 194, 197.  
 Town Four Miles Square, 190.

Valuation, 198.

War of the Revolution, 197.  
 War, The Rebels', 197.

## TOWN OF PETERSHAM.

Adonai Shomo, 209.  
 Attacked by the Indians, 201.

Baptist Church, First, 208; Present, 208; Pastors of, 208.

Barrels of Cider : a Load, 202.  
 Beef for the Army in 1780, 204.  
 Boundaries, 214.  
 Bounties to Soldiers in 1776-7, 203.  
 Brooks, Francis A., 214.  
 Cemeteries, 213.  
 Church, Congregational, 202 ; List of Ministers, 207.  
 Church, Orthodox, Ministers of, 203.  
 Clark, Rev. L., 208.  
 Clothing for Soldiers in 1778, 204.  
 Committee of Inspection, 203.  
 " on Public Worship, 203.  
 Democratic Shrewdness, 204.  
 Dennis, Rev. Samuel, 208.  
 Doolittle, Col. Ephraim, 202-3.  
 Families settled in 1750, 200  
 Farms, 210.  
 Federal Trick, 204.  
 Fire, The Great, 213.  
 Flagg, Elisha, 203.  
 Foster, Rev. Festus, 207.  
 Fuller, L. C., 209.  
 Gates, Samuel, 203.  
 Gleason, Joseph, 203.  
 Gore, Peter, 207.  
 Graduates of Colleges, 211-12.  
 Grout, Col., 203.  
 Growth of Nichewaug, 202.  
 Guns indispensable, 201.  
 Hapgood, Seth, 210.  
 Hastings, Daniel, 203.  
 Heroes of the Town, 202.  
 His Majesty discarded, 208.  
 How, George W., 198.  
 Houghton, Col. Jonas, 202.  
 " Madame, 200.  
 Howland, Frederick T., 209.  
 Incorporation, 201.  
 Independence declared, 203.  
 Indians, Fear of, 201.  
 Indians : Land paid for, 200.  
 Keith, Rev. Ephraim, 207.  
 Lands granted by the General Court, 200.

Lee, Mother Ann, 209.  
 Libraries, Sunday-school, 214.  
 Library, Free Public, 214.  
 List of Tories, 203-4.  
 Master Mann, 209.  
 Meeting-houses, 201, 204, 207.  
 Merrill, Rev. E. W., 208.  
 Methodists, 208.  
 Minute-men, 202.  
 Money raised for Soldiers, 204.  
 Mudge, John G., 210, 214.  
 Nichewaug, 199.  
 Patriotism and Pluck, 204.  
 Petersham, 199 ; Beauty of, 214.  
 Population, 209.  
 Products, 210.  
 Reed, Rev. Solomon, settled, 204, 207.  
 Representatives, 210.  
 Revolution, The : Action of the Town, 403.  
 Richards, Asa F., 209.  
 Salt Kettles, 204.  
 Saltpetre and Sulphur, 203.  
 Scenery, Autumnal, 214.  
 Schoolmasters, Early, 209.  
 Schools, 204, 209.  
 Shakers, 208-9.  
 Shays' Rebellion collapsed, 212-213.  
 Small-pox Hospital, 203.  
 Soldiers who died in the Civil War, 206.  
 Spooner, William B., 213.  
 Spotted Fever, 213.  
 Stearns, Ephraim, 203.  
 Town Clerks, 210-11.  
 " Officers, 214.  
 Universalists, 208.  
 Valuation, 210.  
 Village Improvement Society, 214.  
 War of 1812-15, 204.  
 " the Rebellion, 204-5.  
 Whitney, Rev. Aaron, 203, 207.  
 Willard, Dea. Cephas, 213.  
 Willson, Rev. Edmund, 214.  
 Woman, The handsomest, 202.

## TOWN OF PHILLIPSTON.

Agriculture, 224.  
 Amusing Incidents, 223-4.  
 Baker, Charles, 215.  
 Baldwin, Loammi, 218.  
 Bassett, C. C., 218-19, 224.

Bounded, 215, 225.  
 Bowker, Dr. H. L., 227.  
 Brooks and Rivulets, 225.  
 Chickering, Rev. Joseph, 218.  
 Church, Congregational, 218 ; Ministers of, 218.

Church Controversy, 218.  
 Clerks, Town, 225.  
 Cotton and Woolen Mills, 224.

Dictionary of Gen. A. Ward, 218.

Education, 221.  
 Enoch Sawtell's generous Offer, 218.

Farm Buildings and Products, 224.  
 Farmers, successful, 224.  
 Federal, Whig and Republican, 226.  
 Fund, Parish, caused Trouble, 219.

Gerry, Elbridge, 216.  
 " exchanged to Phillipston, 220-21.

Gingerbread, Showers of, 224.

Goulding, Col. Ignatius, 226.

" Hon. Jason, 225-6.

Graduates of College, 221.

" Mount Holyoke, 221.

Grazing Lands, 224.

Incorporated, 216.

Jones, James, 216-17.

" Nahum, 217.

Library, Phillips Public, 221.

Marble, Rev. W. H., 220.

Meeting-house, 217-18; captured by Methodists, 219.

Meeting-house, Methodist, 219.

Men and Money against the Rebellion, 223.  
 " of Prominence, 226.

Methodist Ministers and Preaching, 218-20.  
 Monument, Soldiers', 223.

Newton, Jeremiah L., 227.

Officers first chosen, 216.

Perkins, Rev. A. E. P., 218.

Phillips, Jonathan, 221.

Population, 226.

Powers, Edward, 226; Harriet G., 227; Oliver, 219; Rev. P. O., 227.

Preaching, £100 for, 218.

Precinct in 1774, 215.

Representatives and Senators, 225.

Revolutionary Soldiers, Names of, 216.

Sanderson, Dea. Courtlon, 226-7.

Scenery, grand, 225.

Schools and School-houses, 217, 221.

Stock, thoroughbred, 224.

Stow, Silas, Legacy of, 222.

Townsend, Paul, 219.

Tucker, Rev. Ebenezer, 218.

Ward, Ithamar, 217.

War of 1812-15, 220.

" the Rebellion, 223.

Washington, Letter of, 217.

## TOWN OF PRINCETON.

Acres in 1749, 243; taxed in 1775, 241.

A goodly heritage, 242.

Agriculture, principal Business, 240.

Air clear and bracing, 241.

Baptist Society Meeting-Houses and Ministers, 240.

Black, James, 232.

Boundaries, 228.

Clarke, Rev. Samuel, 239.

Congregational Church, 238; Majority left the Parish, 239.

Crafty Fox, 232.

Dining the Indians, 231.

District Meeting, First, 237.

District of Prince Town, 236.

Division of the Tract, 233.

Dwight, Pres., on Princeton, 241.

East Princeton, 234.

Education, Religion and Charity, 240.

Elevation of Land, 228.

Farms, The, 236.

Finest of Beef, 240.

Fuller, Rev. Timothy, 238.

General Court of the Indians, 231.

Gill, Hon. Moses, his Seat, 241.

Grants to Rev. Joseph Willard and others, 234.

Great Resort of Summer Visitors, 241.

Harrington, Rev. Timothy, 237.

Harvey, Dr. Zachariah, 237.

Hoar, Mr. John, 231-2.

House of Worship, 240.

Howe, Rev. George M., 240.

Incorporation of the Town, 238.

Indian Belle in Full Rig, 231.

Indians become hostile, 230.

" their Resort, 229.

Indian Treaty, 229-30.

Keyes, Robert, his Lost Child, 235-6.

King Philip, 230-32.



Lancaster Purchasers of Land, 232.  
 Meeting-House built, 237.  
     " Hill, granted to Rev. Mr. Prince, 233.  
 Methodist Church, Ministers and House of Worship, 240.  
 Moore's Tavern, 237.  
 Mountain Region, 241.  
 Murdock, Rev. Dr. James, 238.  
 Naquag, Indian name, 232.  
 Nipmucks, The, 232.  
 Nashaways, The, 229.  
 Plaisted, Thomas, Grant to, 234.  
 Population, 241.  
 Potash Farm granted to Gen. Ruggles, 234.  
 Potful of Wine to Indians, 230.  
 Preaching, First, at Moore's Tavern, 237.  
 Presbyterians, their Ministers, 239.  
 Prince, Rev. Thomas, 233; Grant to, 234.  
 Princeton incorporated, 238.  
 Products of the Farms, 241.  
 Queen of Pocasset, 231.  
 Quinnapin, Sagamore, 231-2.  
 Redemption Rock, 232.  
 Roads in 1760, 237.  
 Rowlandson, Mrs., 230-2.  
 Russell, Hon. C. T., 228.  
 Rutland, East Wing, 234.

Settlement rapid in 1750-59, 236.  
 Situation, 228.  
 Slave, One, in 1771, 238.  
 Spirit in the Revolution, 242.  
 Squaw Sachem, 231.  
 Sunset Rock, 237.  
 Sympathies, religious and political, 242.

Thankful homage to God, 242.  
 Town as a Parish, 238.  
     " The, calls a Minister, 239.  
 Turkey Hill, 233.

Union of Church and Society, 239.  
     " of Religious Sentiment, 238.  
 Unitarian Views, 238.

Valuation, 241.

Wachusett granted to Rev. Timothy Fuller, 233.  
 Wachusett Mountain, 228; Headquarters of Indians, 231.  
 War of the Rebellion, Men and Money to suppress it, 242.  
 Watertown and Weston Grant, 233-4.  
 Whitney Hill, 234.  
 Wilder, Joshua, Jr., House for Travellers, 235.  
 Willard, Maj. Simon, his Heirs, 232.  
 Wing, The, 236.  
 Winthrop, Gov. John, 228.  
 Woods, Rev. Dr. Leonard, 239.

## TOWN OF ROYALSTON.

Acreage, 244.  
 Adams, Dr. Frank W., 254.  
     " Dr. Henry O., 254.  
 Agriculture, 254.  
 Animals, wild, 246.  
 Batcheller, Dr. Stephen, 254.  
     " Dr. Stephen, Jr., 254.  
 Benoni Moore, Grant to, 243.  
 Beryl and other Minerals, 245.  
 Boundaries, 244.  
 Bounties for Soldiers in 1778-81, 246.  
 Bryant, Rev. Albert, 255.  
 Bullard, Rev. Ebenezer, 247.  
 Bullock Fund, 249.  
 Bullock, Hon. A. H., 245, 255, 257.  
     " Hon. Rufus, 248, 256.  
     " Miss Candace, 248.  
 Bunch of Grapes Tavern, 244.  
 Church, Baptist, Ministers of, 248.  
     " Congregational, Membership, 247.  
     " Second Congregational, 243; Ministers and Fund, 248.

City, The, 248.  
 Clark, Daniel P., 255.  
 Cushman, Rev. John P., 247.  
 Early Settlers Men of Character, 243.  
 Education, 248-49.  
 Enlisted Men, 1861-5, 251.  
 Estabrook, Joseph, Esq., 254.  
 Farrar, Solomon S., 255.  
 Feldspar, 245.  
 French and Indian War, 244.  
 Geological Structure, 245.  
 Gorges and Waterfalls, 245.  
 Governors, 255.  
 Graduates, 249-50.  
 Grants, Four, 243.  
 Gregory, Gen. Franklin, 254.  
 Grenadiers sent to Boston in 1814, 247.  
 Half-Century Sermon of Mr. Lee, 237.  
 Hapgood's Grant, 243.  
 Hazen, Rev. Norman, 247.  
 Hodge, Elder, 248.

Incorporation, 244.  
 Inscriptions, 252-3.  
 Lee, Rev. Joseph, 247.  
 Lots for Ministers and Schools, 244.

Mechanics' Hall, 255.  
 Meeting-House, 247 ; New, 247.  
 Memorial Tablets, 251.  
 Methodists, 248.

Old Parsonage, 247.  
 " School Fund, 249.

Peckham, Rev. Samuel H., 248.  
 Perkins, Rev. Ebenezer, 247.  
 Pierpont's Grant, 243.  
 Population, 254.  
 Priest's Grant, 243.  
 Purchasers, Distinguished, 243-4.

Railroad Station, 255.  
 Raymond, Joseph, 251.  
 Religious Harmony, 247.  
 Representatives, 253.  
 Republican Cascade, 245.  
 Ripley, Mrs., 257.

Rivers and Brooks, 244.  
 Royal Cascade, 245.  
 Royal, Hon. Isaac, 244.  
 Royalshire, 244.  
 Royalston, Origin of, 243.

Scenery, Beautiful, 244-5.  
 Schools and School-Houses, 249.  
 Situation of the Town, 243.  
 Soldiers, Bounties for, 251.  
 " in the Revolution, Names of, 246.  
 South Royalston, 255.  
 Spirit in the Revolution, 246.  
 Statistics, 254.

Town Hall, 255.  
 Town Meeting, First, 244.  
 Town Officers, 257.

Union Society, 248.

War of the Rebellion, 251.  
 Whitney, Col. George, 256.  
 Willis, Dr. Isaac P., 254.  
 Woolen Cloth Made, 256.  
 Wolves, Wild-cats and Panthers, 246.  
 Wood, Rev. Pliny, 244.

## TOWN OF RUTLAND.

Adventists, The, 265.  
 Agricultural Town, 267.  
 Alarm Men of 1775, list of, 266.  
 Beef, Pork, Mutton, &c., 267.  
 Bigelow, J. Warren, 258.  
 Boundaries of Purchase, 258.  
 " of the Town, 259, 261.  
 Broad Street for Common, 259.  
 Brooks, 261.  
 Buckminster, Rev. Joseph, 264.

Campbell, Daniel, murdered, 268.  
 Centre of the Town, High, 262.  
 Church Building, twice burned, 264.  
 " Congregational, pastors of, 264.  
 Clark, Rev. Joseph, 264.  
 County Officers, 263.

Dodge, Rev. George E., 264.  
 Encampment of Burgoyne's Army, 266.  
 Engagement, Solemn, 265.

Fish, Variety of, in ponds, 262.  
 Fitzpatrick, Edward, 263.  
 Foster, Rev. Luke B., 264.  
 Frink, Rev. Thomas, 264.

Goodrich, Rev. Hezekiah, 264.  
 Gospel Privileges, 263.  
 Grantees of six miles square, 259.

Hardships in the Revolution, 266.  
 Healthful Climate, 262.  
 Height of Land, 261.  
 Hills, Valleys, Plains, 261-2.  
 House Lot, 262.

Incorporation, 260.  
 Indian Deed of Land, 258.  
 " Fight, 260.  
 Indians dangerous, 262.

Land, good grazing, 261.  
 Latin Grammar School, 262.  
 Library, Public, 267.  
 Location of Rutland central, 261.  
 Lords of the Soil, 258.

Mechanics and their Works, 267.  
 Meeting-House, 259, 263.  
 Methodists, 265.  
 Millbrook, Its Source, 261.  
 Mineral Springs, 261.  
 Minute-Men, Roll of, 265-7.  
 Moore, Maj. Willard, fell at Bunker Hill, 266.  
 Mortal Sickness in 1749 and 1756, 265.  
 Murray, Col. John, 265 ; farms confiscated, 267.

Naquag, 258.

Officers, First chosen, 260.  
 Original Settlers, 259.

Ponds and Streams, 261.  
 Population, 263.  
 Presbyterian Element, 264.  
 Purchasers of Land, 258.  
 Putnam, Gen. Rufus, 267-8.

Quota raised in the Revolution, 266.

Redland, 258.  
 Reed, Benjamin, fell at Bunker Hill, 266.  
 Revolutionary Spirit, 265.

Settlement, rapid, 259.

Settlers, where from, and character, 259.  
 School Committee, First, 262.  
 School-houses, Location of, 263.  
 Schools, 262.  
 Soldiers against the Rebellion, 267.  
 Trees in great variety, 261.  
 Ware River, 261.  
 War History, 265-7.  
 Wild Beasts numerous, 262.  
 Willard, Rev. Joseph, 259; killed, 260, 263.  
 Wright, Capt. Samuel, 260.

## TOWN OF SHREWSBURY.

Agricultural Associates in 1815, 278.  
 Agriculture, 275.  
 Allen, Rev. George, 279.  
 Allotment of Lands, in 1718, 270.  
 Ammunition, 273.  
 Apple Orchards, 275.  
 Baptist Society, Pastors of, 279.  
 Barrel of Rum, 278.  
 Bernard, Sir Francis, 278.  
 Boots and Shoes, 276.  
 Boston, Sympathy with, 273.  
 Brass Clocks, 275.  
 Breck, Rev. Mr., His Sermon, 277.  
 Brooks and Streams, 275.  
 Catholic House of Worship, 280.  
 Centre of the Town, 274-5.  
 Children, Whose baptized? 278.  
 Churches and other Public Buildings, 275.  
 Church Organized, 277; Pastors of, 279.  
 Committee's Farm, 271.  
 Committee of Inspection, 273.  
 Common, The, 275.  
 Companies of Militia, in 1774, 273.  
 Conventions, Delegates to, 274.  
 Cushing, Job, 282.  
 " Rev. Job, 278.

Deceased Soldiers, Cared for, 281.

Ecclesiastical History, 272.  
 Education, 277.  
 Epitaph of Gen. A. Ward, 282.

Families, Number of, 283.  
 First Restoration Society, 279.  
 Flint, Dr. Austin, 282.

Goddard, Hon. Calvin, 282.  
 " Luther, ingenious, 276.  
 Grantees, Names of, 270-1.  
 Gun, stolen, 272.

High School, 277.  
 Hills, 275,  
 Howe, Samuel L., 269.  
 Incorporation, 271.  
 Iron Field-piece, 273.  
 Leather, Annual Product, 276.  
 Leg, The, Annexed to Lancaster, 269.  
 Library, Public, 277.  
 Location of the Town, 269.  
 Lower Village, 276.  
 Mason, John, 276.  
 Meeting-house, 272, 277; New One, 278.  
 " " Hill, 275.  
 Methodist Society, Pastors of, 279-80.  
 Monument to Soldiers, 281.  
 Morse, Rev. Ebenezer, examined, 274.  
 Nelson & Rice, 276.  
 Non-importation Association, 273.  
 North Parish, now Boylston, 278.  
 Officers of Distinction, 283.  
 Old Haven Tavern, 277.  
 Order of General Court, 270.  
 Original Grant, large, 269.

Pastorate of Sixty Years, 279.  
 Pease, Levi, 282.  
 Petition for Town Privileges, 271.  
 Picturesque and wealthy, 274.  
 Population, 283.  
 Post-masters, 277.  
 " road, Old, 275.  
 Present Territory, 269.  
 Provincial Congress, Delegates to, 273-4.

Quinsigamond Lake, 275.

Representatives, 281-2.  
 Revolution, The, 273.



Revolutionary Pensioners, 274.

Rice, Rev. Gardner, 279.

Rifle Company, 276.

Rifle-making, 276.

Ruling Elders, 278.

Scudder, Rev. John L., 279.

Second Parish of Shrewsbury, 269, 274.

Settlers, First, 269-70.

Shays' Rebellion, 274.

Shoe, The, Annexed to Westborough, 269.

Shrewsbury, 269, 274.

Soldiers at Crown Point, 272.

Stages, Four a Day, 275.

State Aid, 281.

Statistics, 283.

Steeple and Bells, 278.

Stopping the Courts, in 1774, 273.

Sumner-house, 280.

Sumner, Rev. Dr. Joseph, 278-9.

Surroundings, 269.

Tanning and Currying, 276.

Tea discarded in 1774, 273.

Thief Detecting Society, 276.

Town a Camp in 1787, 274.

Town Hall, 277.

Town Officers, First, 272.

“ Meeting, First, 272.

Tories disarmed and restricted, 274.

Turnpike, 275.

Valuation, 283.

Viewing Committee, 270.

Votes of the Town in 1774, 273-4.

Ward, Gen. Artemas, 273, 278.

“ Elisha, 280.

War of the Rebellion, 281; Soldiers in, 281.

Watch-making, 275-6.

Watch, Old, in Antiquarian Hall, 275.

Watts' Psalms and Hymns, 278.

Whipping-post and Stocks, 272.

## TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH.

Acreage, 285-6.

Agricultural Products, 286.

Baptist Society and Pastors, 290.

Biographical Notes, 292-3.

Boots and Shoes, 287.

Boundaries, 284.

Brick Church, 290.

Bridges and Roads, 286.

Brooks, 286.

Buildings, good, 286.

Burnett, Dr. Joseph, 292.

“ Edward, 286.

Catholic Church, 290.

Children of Marlborough, The, 285.

Church Edifice, Second, dedicated, 290; conveyed to Pilgrim Society, 290.

Church, First Congregational and Pastors, 290.

Cordaville, why named, 287.

“ Mills Company, 287.

“ Woolen Company, 288.

Cow Common, 284.

Deerfoot Farm, 286.

Episcopal Church and Rectors, 290.

Excelsior Butter, 286.

Factories, 287.

Farms, Superior, 286.

Fay Brothers, 288.

“ Col. F. B., 291.

Fayville, 287.

Fiddle Neck, 285.

Fields, Orchards and Gardens, 286.

Granite Rock, 286.

High-school House, 290.

Hills, Names of, 286.

Houses, Number of, 287.

Incorporated, 284.

Iron Springs, 286.

Library, Free Public, 291; Donations to by Col. F. B. Fay, 291.

Location of the Town, 284.

Lyceums, 292.

Manufacture of Brick, 288.

Meeting-house, 289.

Men and Women, noble, 292; Names of, 292-3.

Milk and Butter, 286.

Mills, 287.

Monument to Soldiers, 294.

Names of Petitioners for Town, 285.

Newton, Dexter, 284.

Newtons, Fays and Brighams, 289.

Oxen and Cows, 287.

Paupers, only Five, 287.

Peters, Henry H., 290-91.

Peters High-school House, 291.

Petition for Incorporation, 284-5.

Pilgrim Evangelical Society, and Pastors of, 289-90.

Population, 289.  
 Procuring a Minister, 289.  
 Railroad Stations, 287.  
 Sanford, Milford H., 287.  
     " Mrs. Cordelia, 287.  
 Schools, 290-1.  
 Second Congregational Church, 290; Pastors of, 290.  
 Shoe-factory in Fayville, 288.  
 Soldiers, Perfect Record of, 294.  
 Southborough, 284.  
     " Centre, 287.  
 Southville, 287.  
 St. Mark's School, Episcopal, 292.  
 Stone, Rev. Nathan, 290.

Stony Brook, 284.  
 Teachers, 290.  
 Town Houses, Cost of, 292.  
     " Meeting, First, 289.  
     " Officers, 289.  
 Trees, Variety of, 286.  
 Valuation, 287.  
 Value of Manufactured Products, 289.  
 Villages, Four, 287.  
 Volumes in Library, 291.  
 Wall Fences, 286.  
 War, French and Indian, 293.  
     " of the Rebellion, 294.  
     " Revolutionary, 293-4.

## TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE.

Agricultural Products, 310.  
 Ammidown, Holmes, 305, 313.  
     " Hon. Ebenezer, 312.  
 Ashland Mills, 302.  
 Baptists, 298.  
 Baptist Church, 299.  
     " Central, 299.  
     " Deacons, 300.  
     " Ministers, 299, 300.  
     " Society, First, 299.  
 Beginnings of Business, small, 300.  
 Best, Rev. E. S., 303.  
 Boundaries, 295.  
 Brick Church, beautiful, 304.  
 Brochu, Rev. G. Elz, 304.  
 Brooks, 296.  
 Business Companies, 308-9.  
 Carpenter, Rev. Eber, 298, 311.  
 Centre of Business, 295, 300.  
 Central Cotton Mills, 301.  
     " Mills Company, 301.  
 Child, Hon. Linus, 312.  
 Church, Congregational, 296-8; Pastors of, 298.  
 Columbian Company, 302.  
 Cotton Business started, 301.  
 Covenant, Church, 298.  
 Cutting, Dr. Sewall, 311.  
 Danielson, Rev. Joseph, 298.  
 Deacons of Congregational Church, 298.  
 Delaines, Hamilton, 302.  
 District Court, First, Justices of, 309.  
 Dresser Mills, 301.  
 Dwellings, few in 1811, 297.  
 Education, 305.

Evangelical Church, Free, 302; Pastors of, 304.  
 Farmers the First Settlers, 296.  
 Fire Department, 309.  
 Foreign-born, 304.  
 French Catholics, 304.  
 Globe Mill, 301.  
     " Village, 296, 301, 304.  
 Hamilton Woolen Company, 301-2.  
 Hills, 296.  
 Historical Collections, 313.  
 Hive of Industry, 296.  
 Honest Town, 296.  
 Hotels, 309.  
 Incorporation, 298.  
 Journal, Southbridge, 307.  
 Kremmen, Rev. John M., 304.  
 Libraries, Sabbath-school, 306.  
 Library Committee, 305.  
     " Public, 305.  
 Location of the Town, 295.  
 Manufactured Products, 310.  
 Masonic Lodges, 309.  
 Marcy Family, The, 296.  
     " Hon. William L., 310-11.  
     " Jedediah, 310.  
     " Moses, 296.  
 Meeting-house in 1797, 296.  
 Men, leading, Names of, 310.  
 Methodist Church and Ministers, 303.  
 Names of Various Societies, 309.

Notes, Biographical, 310-11.

Notre Dame Church, 304.

Optical Company, 302.

Pamphlets and Maps, valuable, 306.

Periodicals, Names of, 306-7.

Plimpton, Moses, 313.

Poll Parish, 296.

Population, 310.

Press, The, 306.

Professional Men, 309.

Protestants, 304.

Quinebaug River, 295-6.

Roman Catholics, 303.

Route of Travel, 295.

School Committee, 309.

Schools and Schoolmasters, 305.

Soldiers in the Civil War, 308.

Southbridge Factory Company, 301.

Southbridge taken from three Towns, 295.

Square Miles in the Town, 295.

Stearns, Rev. Dr. O. S., 312.

Stevenson, Rev. B. V., 303.

Stores, New Brick, 310.

St. Peter's Church, 304.

Sumner, Dea. George, 300.

" William, 301.

Surface broken, 295-6.

Tracy, Rev. F. P., 303.

Universalists, Society of, 303.

Valuation, 310.

Volumes in Library, 305.

Volunteers, Bounties to, 308.

War of the Rebellion, 307-8.

Water-power great, 297.

Whitaker, George M., 307.

Wolcott Brick Mill, 301.

Wool Fabrics, First, 300.

## TOWN OF SPENCER.

Acres of Land in the Town, 316.

Agriculture, 332.

Appropriations for Schools, 318.

Articles of Confederation opposed, 325.

Bank of Paper Money, 327.

Beaven, Rev. Thomas D., 331.

Beef for the Army, 325-6.

Bennington, Soldiers at, 324.

Bemis, Capt. Edward, 322.

" Samuel, Wife and Child, 316-17.

Bisbee, Rev. F. A., 331.

Boots, 334-5.

Boston, Sympathy with, 323-4.

Boundaries, 316.

Bounties to Soldiers in 1779, 325.

" " 1861-5, 327-8.

Bounty on Crows, 337.

Box-making, 335.

Bunker Hill, Soldiers at, 323.

Catholic Church, 331.

Cemeteries, 331.

Centennial in 1876, 335.

Church, Baptist, 331.

" Congregational, Pastors of, 329-31.

Clothing for the Army in 1777-80, 324.

Clerks of District and Town, 316.

Coach, Old Stage, 320.

Committee of Correspondence, 324.

" of Safety, 325-6.

Constitution of 1778 rejected, 325.

Continental Money, 325-6.

Cosson, Rev. Julius, 331.

Curtis, A. W., Esq., 314.

Debt of the Town, 336.

District Meeting, First, 317.

" Officers, " 317.

Doctors, Names of, 336.

Dog Fund, for Library, 319.

Early Settlers, 317.

Eastern Portion, 314.

Eaton, Rev. Joshua, 323-30.

Elevated Township, 316.

Fire Department, 319.

" Engine, 337.

" Great, 335.

Fixing Prices, 324.

G. A. R. Post, 328.

Gifts for the High School, 318.

Grievances in 1785-7, 327.

Hats, Palm-leaf, 334.

Herrick, Rev. Austin F., 331.

High School, 318.

Hills, rounded and fertile, 316.

History of Town, by J. Draper, 339.

Hotels, Five on Old Road, 321.

Houses, Number of, 317.

Howe, Elias, 332.

" William, 332.

Incorporation of Precinct, 315.

" of District, 315.



Independence declared, 324.  
 Indian Grant to Leicester, 314.  
 Indian Prowlers, 316.  
 Inventor of the Sewing-machine, 332.  
 Iron-ore, 316.  
 Jenks' Tavern, 321.  
 Justices of the Peace, 336.  
 Lamps, Street, 319.  
 Lawyers, Names of, 336.  
 Library Association, 319.  
 Lines of Stages, thirteen, 321.  
 Lodges, 336.  
 Mail on Horseback, 320.  
 Massasoit House, 321.  
 Meeting-house, 329; Second, 329.  
     " new in 1861, 329.  
 Memorial Tablets, 328.  
 Men and Money to put down Rebellion, 328.  
 Methodist Society, 331.  
 Military History, 322.  
 Minute-men, 323.  
 Moose Pond, 316.  
 Museum of Relics, 319.  
 Naomie Cady, 338.  
 National Bank, 335.  
 Negro Slaves, Five, 328-9.  
 Occupations of the People, 332.  
 Politics of the Town, 337.  
 Ponds and Streams, 316.  
 Pope Mansion, The, 321.  
     " Mrs. Anna, Great age of, 321.  
     " Rev. Joseph, 321, 330.  
 Population, 317.  
 Post-office, 321.  
 Powder in 1774, 323.  
     " Mills, 332-3.  
 Preaching, Support of, 314.  
 Proprietors' Part, 314.  
 Provision for the Poor, 338.  
 Rebellion of Shays resisted, 327.  
 Representatives and Delegates, 336-7.  
 Road Commissioners, 318.  
 Roads, 317.  
 Road, The Old County, 317.  
     " " South and North County, 318.

Savings Bank, 335.  
 School Money, 318.  
 Schools and Schoolmasters, 318.  
 Scythes, Hoes and Cutlery, 334.  
 Second Precinct, 314.  
 Senators, 337.  
 Settlers' Part, 314.  
 Seven-mile River, 315.  
 Sidewalks, 319.  
 Silver, 316.  
 Small-pox, 338.  
 Spiked Gun, 322.  
 Spencer, 314; a Town in 1775, 315.  
     " Railroad Company, 320-1.  
 Stage Lines in 1783, 320.  
 Stay Law, 326-7.  
 Stoves in Meeting-house, 337.  
 Tate and Brady, 330.  
 Tavern, Old, as seen by a Frenchman, 321.  
 Tender, Legal, 327.  
 The Spencer Sun, 336.  
 Town Clerks, 337.  
     " Hall, 319, 328.  
     " Meetings, where held, 318-19.  
     " Pound, 338-39.  
 Tories execrated, 325.  
 Tower and Cupola, 329.  
 Trees, Shade, 319.  
 Trick, Odd, 320.  
 Truss Wooden Bridge, 332.  
 Universalist Society, 331.  
 Valuation, 317.  
 Veto of Gov. Shirley, 314.  
 Volumes in Library, 319.  
 Walker, Rev. A. S., 331.  
 Wallace, Rev. S. C., 331.  
 Wars, French and Indian, 322.  
 War of the Rebellion, 327-8.  
     " " Revolution, 323-6.  
 Washington, Gen., 321.  
 Watson, Oliver, 316.  
 Watts' Psalms and Hymns, 330.  
 Western Portion, 314.  
     " Railroad, 320.  
 Wire-making, 333-4.  
 Wood, Nathaniel, 316.  
 Woolen Manufacture, 334.

## TOWN OF STERLING.

Acres, Number of, 340.  
 Allen, Rev. P. T., 349.  
 Baptist Church and Ministers, 347-8.  
 Beaman, Gamaliel, and others, 342.

Blood, Col. Thomas H., 347, 352.  
 Bounties in 1861-5, 350-1.  
 Bridges, expensive, 343.  
 Brooks and Lakes, 341.

Canker-rash, 344.  
 Capen, Rev. Samuel, 346-7.  
 Chocksett or Choxet, 340, 343; a Parish or Precinct, 343.  
 Church Formed, 343; had rest, 346; Ministers of, 347.  
 Clark, Rev. Josiah, 347.  
 Constitution of United States approved, 344.  
 Converse, Rev. Otis, 347.  
 Covenant of the Church altered, 346-7.

Deaths in Sterling and other Towns, 343.  
 Domestic Animals, Value of, 349.  
 Dysentery, fatal, 343.

Education, 350.  
 Elevations, 340-1.  
 Evangelical Church, First, and Ministers, 348.

Families, Patrician, 345.  
 Family of Mr. Mellen, 346.  
 Farmers' Club, 351.  
 Farming, 348-9.  
 French and Indian War, 1755-9, 343.

G. A. R. Post, 351.  
 Goodwin, Isaac and John A., 352.  
 Goss, Rev. Mr., of Bolton, 346.  
 Great Earthquake, 343.

Hatters, 349.  
 Henchman, Capt., 341.  
 Historical Interest, tender, 341.  
 Holcomb, Rev. Rufus, 346.  
 Hotel, Central, 349.

Improvable Land, 340.  
 Incorporation, 344.  
 Indian Fight, The, 342-3.  
     " Justice, 342.  
     " Regattas, 341.  
 Industries, chief, 349.

Latitude, 340.  
 Leather, 349.  
 Library, 351.  
 Longevity and Health, 351.  
 Lord Sterling, 344.

Meeting-House, First, 344; Second, 344.  
 Mellen, Rev. John, 343, 345.  
 Mile-wide Strip, 344.  
 Mine, Old, 341-2.  
 Morning Action in 1755, 343.

Morals relaxed, 1750-90, 345.  
 Monument to the Soldiers, 351.  
 Naval Contest on Waushacum, 341.  
 Number in the Church, 347.

Ore, Silver, 341-2.  
 Parallel Ridges, 340.  
 Peck, Dr. William D., 348, 351.  
 Perkins, Rev. B. F., 348.  
 Pews, Seating the, 345.  
 Philip, 341.  
 Population, 349.  
 Pottery Business, 349.  
 Praying Women, 347.  
 Prescott, John, and others, 342.  
 Prominent Citizens, 351-2.  
 Putnam, Rev. Dr. George, 351.

Redstone and other Hills, 341.  
 Revolution, social, 345.

School, Private, 349.  
 Schools, Public, 350.  
 Sebastian Bible, 352.  
 Shays' Outbreak opposed, 344.  
 Sholan, 341.  
 Silver Tankards, 352.  
 Smith, Sebastian, 352.  
 Soil, good, 340.  
 Soldiers in the Rebels' War, 350-1.  
 Square Miles, 340.  
 Stage Routes, Old, 349.  
 Sterling taken from Lancaster, 340.  
     " in the Revolution, 343.  
     " against the Rebellion, 350-1.  
 Surface, 340.

Tahanto, Sachem, 342.  
 Tanning, 349.  
 Thomas, Moses G., 352.  
 Town Hall, 351.  
     " House, 345.  
     " Officers in 1861-5, 351.

Universalists, 347.  
 Veto Power of the Clergy, 346.  
 Waushacum Lakes, 341.  
 Whitcomb, Col. Asa, 343, 345, 351.  
 White Settlers, First, 342.  
 Wilder, Capt. Ephraim, 344, 351.  
 Woonsechocksett, 340.

## TOWN OF STURBRIDGE.

Acreage in 1792, 359.  
 Agriculture, 337.  
 Allen, Liberty, 370.  
 Augers and Bits, 370-1.

Baptist Church, 365; Pastors of, 366.  
     " Meeting-house, 363.  
 Baptists harassed, 365; exempted from paying Parish Tax, 366.

Bible in the Indian Tongue, 353.  
 Blacklead Mines, 368.  
 Blunt, Elder John, killed, 365.  
 Boston, Sympathy with, 358.  
 Brick School-house, 362.

Church, Congregational, and Ministers, 364-5.  
 Clark, Rev. Dr. Joseph, 364.  
 Committee on Public Affairs in 1774, 358.  
 Cotton-mills: Officers, 369-70.  
 Country Gore, 359.  
 Cushion for Minister, 357.  
 Cutters and Dies, 371.

Declaration of Independence, 358.  
 Drawing Lots for Land, 354-5.  
 Dummer Tract, 354.

Education, 361.  
 Eliot, Rev. John, 353.  
 Episcopal (Grace) Church, 366-7; Rectors of, 367.  
 Ewing, Rev. William, 365.

Fiskdale Mills, 356; Village, 366-9.  
 Fiske, Hon. Josiah J., 366-69.  
 Fisk, Henry, gave Lead, 358.  
 " James C.; 371.  
 Funeral Carriage, House for, 359.

Graduates of Colleges, 363.  
 Grammar School, 361.  
 Goody Lincoln, the Witch, 365.  
 Grist-mills, 356.

Harnesses, Carriages, &c., 370.  
 Hobbs, Samuel, in Boston Tea-party, 358.

Incorporation, 356.

Land given to Eliot, 353.  
 " in Town good in Parts, 355.  
 Library, Public, and Committee, 362.

Marcy, Moses, 355-6.  
 Medfield People, Grantees, 354.  
 Meeting-house, First, 364.  
 Meeting of Soldiers in 1774, 358.  
 Mills in 1792, 359.  
 Morse, A. C., Esq., 353.  
 Moulton, Rev. Ebenezer, 356.  
 Mountains and Hills, 355.

New Lights, 365.  
 " Medfield, 355.  
 Nipmuck Country, Bounds of, 353.

Old Cemetery, 359.

Oldham, John, 368.  
 Orthodox Minister, 364.

Paine, Rev. Joshua, gave Powder, 358;  
 preached to Soldiers, 358.  
 Parsonage, 364-5.  
 Petition for Town granted, 356.  
 " to General Court for Land, 354.  
 Petitioners, Names of, 354.  
 Pioneers, hardy, 355.  
 Pistol Factory, 371.  
 Plumbago, 368.  
 Ponds, large, 355.  
 Population, 362.  
 Powder, Lead and Flints, 358.  
 Promotion of Agriculture, Society for, 367;  
 Officers of, 363.

Quinebaug Library Association, 362.  
 " River, 356.

Ratable Polls in 1783, 359.  
 Representatives, Names of, 360-1.  
 Residences in 1811, 360.  
 Richardson, Rev. M. L., 364.

Saltonstall, Gov. Gurdon, 354.  
 School Committee, 362.  
 Schools, 361-2.  
 Settlement in 1731, 354-5.  
 Settlers: their Character, 357.  
 Snell Manufacturing Company, 371.  
 Soldiers in French War, 359.  
 " in the Rebellion, 362.  
 " in Revolution, 359.  
 Southbridge set off, 360.  
 Sturbridge, Origin of Name, 353.

Teachers, First Female, 361.  
 Town Meeting, First, 356.  
 " Officers, First, 356-7.  
 " " present, 363.  
 " prayed to God in 1774, 358.  
 Tudor, Frederick, 368.

Unitarian Meeting-house, 366.  
 " Ministers, 366.  
 " Society, 366.

Views, Extensive, 355.  
 Volumes in Library, 362.

Waterfalls at Fiskdale, 369.  
 Willard, William, Artist, 360.  
 Winthrop, John, Jr., 353.  
 Witchcraft, 365.



## TOWN OF SUTTON.

- Agricultural Town, 386.  
 All-Night Ride to Concord, 376.  
 Ammunition provided, 375.  
 Armsby, Dr. James H., 386.  
 Attractive Features, 373.  
 Baptist Church and Pastors, 380.  
     " Second, 381.  
     " Third, 381.  
 Benedict, Rev. W. A., 372.  
 Blackstone River, 373.  
 Blanchard, Thomas, 387.  
 Boomer, Gen. George B., 387.  
 Bond, Rev. Dr. Alvan, 387.  
 Boots and Shoes, 385.  
 Bounds, 372.  
 Breech-Loading Rifle, 378.  
 Building a Meeting-House, 379.  
 Business in great Variety, 384-5.  
 Chase Family, 388.  
 Church formed, 379.  
     " Second Congregational, 380.  
 Comb-Making, 384.  
 Committee of Correspondence, 376.  
 Congregational Ministers, 380.  
 Constitutions, State and National, 377.  
 Contest about Rifles, 378.  
 Disloyalty Dangerous, 376.  
 Elders, Baptist, Names of, 380.  
 Episcopal (St. John's) Church, and Rectors of, 381.  
 Families set off, 372-3.  
 First Congregational Society, 380.  
 Foreign Superfluities, 375.  
 Freewill Baptists, 381-2.  
 French and Indian War, 375.  
 Fruits of the Loom, 385.  
 General Distress, 377.  
 Grant, Conditions of, 373.  
 Great Snow-Storm, 374.  
 Hall, Dea. Willis, 377.  
     " Rev. Dr. David, 379.  
 Hand-cards, 384.  
 Hassanamisco, 372.  
 Incorporated, 372.  
 Independence, ready for it, 376.  
 Indian Deed lost, 372.  
 Indians, friendly, 374.  
 Insurgents of 1786-7, 377.  
 Joy over the Battle of Yorktown, 376.  
 King George's War, 374.  
 Learned, Col. E., 376.  
 Lexington Fight, 375.  
 Library, Free Public, 384.  
 Manchaug, 385.  
     " Baptist Church, 382.  
 Manufactures in every House, 384.  
 Marbleville, 385.  
 March, Dr. Alden, 386.  
 McKinstrey, Rev. John, 379.  
 Men of Mark, 375.  
 Meeting-House, First, 381.  
 Methodist Church, 382.  
 Millbury set off, 373, 380.  
 Minister and Ministry, 373.  
 Minute-Men, 375.  
 Morse, Moses L., 387.  
 Natural Ponds, 373.  
 Paper-Mill, 385.  
 Pioneer Families, 374.  
 Population, rapid Increase, 374.  
 Proprietors in 1704, 373; First Meeting, 374.  
 Purgatory, 373.  
 Putnam, Gen. Rufus, 386.  
 Regiment in 1776, 376.  
     " Second, 376.  
 Religious History, 379.  
 Rocky Formation, 373.  
 Salary of Minister Raised by Tax, 380.  
 Sale of Land confirmed, 372.  
 Schools, High, 383-4.  
     " Private, 383.  
     " Public, 383-4.  
 Settlers, First, 374.  
 Shays' Emeute opposed, 377.  
 Sibley, Caleb, 388.  
     " Hon. Solomon, 386.  
     " Jonas, 388.  
     " Jonas L., 388.  
 Sixty Rights, 374.  
 Soldiers against the Rebellion, 379.  
 Sutton Purchased, 372.  
 Sutton Regiment, 379.  
 Toasts, patriotic and spicy, 376.  
 Town Meeting, First, 374.  
 Township, large, 372.  
 United Presbyterian Church in Wilkin-  
     ville, 382.  
 Universalist Society, 382.

Volumes in Library, 384.  
 Wampus *alias* White, 372.  
 War brought Poverty, 377.  
     " of the Rebellion, 375-6.  
     " of the Revolution, 375-6.

War of 1812-15, 377.  
 Whiting, Rev. Samuel M., 388.  
 Wilkinsonville, 385.  
 Woodburyville, 385.  
 Wool and Flax, 384.

## TOWN OF TEMPLETON.

Acres in Township, 397.  
 Acres, 400 grown to 3,000, 393-4.  
 Adams, Rev. E. G., 405.  
 Baker, Capt., 394.  
 Baldwin, Jonathan, 399.  
 Baldwinsville, 399.  
 Baptist Church, 405.  
 Bates, Rev. Lemuel, 405.  
 Belcher, Gov. : his Mines, &c., 393.  
 Blankets for Soldiers, 400.  
 Bog-iron Ore, 393.  
 Boots, 404.  
 Boston sustained, 399.  
 Boynton, John, 404.  
     " Library, 407.  
 Bridge over Otter River, 397-8.  
 Broad, Rev. J. P., 406.  
 Burn the Woods, 392.  
 Bushnell, Rev. Gerard, 407-8.

Capt. Jack, 400-1.  
 Catholic Church, 406.  
 Cave, The, 393.  
 Centre, Templeton, 392.  
 Chair Business, 402-3.  
 Claimants of the Land, 390.  
 Climate, 393.  
 Clothier's Mill, 402.  
 Committee of Correspondence, 399.  
     " to Bound Township, 392.  
 Confessions in 1775, 399-400.  
 Corn-mill, 395.  
 Currency, poor, 401.

Davis, Capt. Joseph, 405.  
 Day, Col. Gilman, 404.  
 Delegates to Conventions, 401.  
 Division, First, 394.  
     " Second, 394.  
     " Third, 395.

Early Settlers, Names of, 397.  
 East Templeton, 403.

Factories in 1879, 405.  
 Falesville, 402.  
 First Family in Town, 394.  
     " Town Meeting, 396.  
     " " Officers chosen, 396.

Fight at Narragansett, 389.  
 Furnace, 402.  
 Furniture, 403.

Geological Basis, 392.  
 Grantees' Rights, 391.  
 Grant, Original, 389.  
     " enlarged, 390.  
     " Second, 391-2.

Hatless and Reinless, 401.  
 Hawkes, Gen. George P., 408.  
 Hemlock Trees, 404.  
 High School, 406.  
 Hills and Ponds, 392.  
 Hoes, Scythes, &c., 402.  
 Houghton, Jonas, Surveyor, 391.  
 House-lots drawn, 393.

Incorporation, Act of, 395-6.  
 Irrepressible Conflict, 398.

Jonesville, 403.

Land for Burying-place, 397.  
 Lane, Mr. H. F., 406.  
 Lee, Col. Artemas, 405.  
 Legal Tender, 401.  
 Libraries, 406-7.  
 Library, Boynton, 407.  
 Locke, John, disloyal, 399.  
 Lodges, 408.  
 Lumber Factory, 404.

Meadow Lots, 394.  
 Meeting, First, in Township, 394.  
     " House Lot, 393.  
     " " First, 394, 397; New, 402.

Methodist Church, 406.  
 Military Companies, 407-8.  
 Mill Brook, 392.  
 Mills, 402.  
 Mine Hill, 392.  
 Muster-field on the Common, 407.  
 Musical Instruments in Church, 402.

Narragansett Society, No. 6, 390.  
 Nickerson, Rev. A. C., 405.  
 Nipmuck Country, 389.

Officers and Soldiers in the Civil War, 408.

Ossian, 389.  
 Otter River, 392, 400, 402.  
 Paper Money, 401.  
 Parkhurst, Varanus P., 389.  
 Partridgeville, 403.  
 Petition for Precinct, 398.  
 Plateau, broad, 392.  
 Pond, Rev. Daniel, 395.  
 Population in 1765, 397.  
 Prices stated, 401.  
 Prospect Hill, 392.  
 Provisions for Soldiers in 1774, 399.  
 Railroads, 405.  
 Ridge Hill, 394.  
 Return of J. Houghton, Copy of, 391.  
 Roads, 394-5, 398, 405.  
 Sabin, Rev. Dr. Lewis, 405-6.  
 Saw-mill, 393-4.  
 Schools, 406.  
 Seating the Meeting-house, 397.  
 Second Adventists, 403.  
 Second Precinct a Town, 399.  
 Smith, Col. Henry, 404.  
 Soil variable, 393.  
 Soldiers in the Revolution, 400.  
 Source of opposite Streams, 392.  
 Sparhawk, Rev. Ebenezer, 395, 402.  
 Squadrons, 398.

Stoves and Castings, 404.  
 Sulphuret of Iron, 392.  
 Tanning, 405.  
 Templeton, 389.  
 Temple Town, 396.  
 Tileston, Maj. Thomas, 389-90.  
 Township, elevated, 392.  
 Trinitarian Church, 405-6.  
 " " in Baldwinsville, 406.  
 Trout Brook, 392.  
 Tubs and Pails, 403.  
 Turnpike Corporation, 402.  
 Universalist Society, 406.  
 Valley of the Burnshirt, 392.  
 Volunteers at Lexington Alarm, 400.  
 Wagons, &c., for Children, 403.  
 Warning out, 393.  
 War of 1812-15, 402.  
 " the Rebellion, 407.  
 " " Revolution, 399.  
 Water-power, chief, 403.  
 Wellington, Rev. Charles, 402.  
 Whitcomb, David, 404.  
 White-pine trees, 404.  
 White, Rev. Charles, 406.  
 Wilder, Elias, 394.  
 Woolen-mill, 403-4.  
 Wright, Ebenezer, 400.

### TOWN OF UPTON.

Acres, Number of, 409.  
 Act of Incorporation, 411.  
 Apples and other Fruits, 417.  
 Assets of the Town, 420.  
 Ball, Rev. George S., 417.  
 Baptists or Christians, Elders of, 415.  
 Bets Hendrick, 410.  
 Boots and Shoes, 417.  
 Boundaries, 409.  
 Brooks, 409.  
 Churches, 420.  
 Colburn, Miss Henrietta, 418.  
 Congregational Church, 412, 414; Pastors of, 414.  
 Deb Brown, 410.  
 Debt of the Town, 420.  
 Doors, sashes and blinds, 416.  
 Dry-goods Stores, 419.  
 Emmons, Rev. Dr., 414.  
 Famous Seats of Indians, 409.  
 Father Barrett, 415.

Fish, Rev. Elisha, 414.  
 Full Quota in the War of Independence, 416.  
 " " Rebels' War, 417.  
 Grist and Saw Mills, 418.  
 Guns and Rifles, 417.  
 Harvard College, Gift to, 412.  
 Hats for Boys, 412.  
 Hazeltine, John, 411.  
 High School, 416.  
 Hilly and rocky, 409.  
 Holbrook, Peter, 411.  
 Hopkins Edward, 411-12.  
 Hopkinton, 412.  
 Hubbard, Rev. Mr., 415.  
 Incorporated, 411.  
 Indian and Negro Stragglers, 410.  
 " Corn, 417.  
 " fishing-places, 409.  
 Knowlton, Hon. William, 415.  
 Lands, Lease and Common, 412-13.  
 Library, Free Public, 416.



Library for Knowlton's Factory, 416.  
Litigation about "Lease" Lands, 412.  
Location, 420.

Maguncog, 412.  
Makers of Straw-goods, 418-19.  
Marsh, Rev. Frank J., 415.  
Meeting-house, 412-13; location of, 413.  
    "    on the Common, 413.  
    "    new in 1848-9, 413-14.  
Methodist Society and Ministers, 415.  
Mill River, 409.

Nipmuck Indians, 409.

Officers and Men in the Civil War, 417.  
Old Burying-Ground, 413.

Plain Land, 409.  
Political Connections of the Town, 420.  
Ponds, 409.  
Population, 420.  
Position of the Township, 409.  
Putnam's Rangers, 416.

Records, Early, defaced, 416.  
Rents and Taxes, 412.  
Resolves of the Town in 1770, 416.  
Roman Catholics, 415.

Sarah Boston, 410.

Schools, 416.  
Settlers, First, Names of, 410-11.  
Shoe Manufacturers, 417-18.  
Simon Robinson, a "Guinea Nigger," 410.  
Soil, light, 409.  
Straw-goods the great business, 418-19.  
Swamps reclaimed, 417.

Taft, Hon. Velorous, 409.  
    "    Israel, 410-11.  
Town Meeting, First, 411.  
    "    Officers, 411.

Unitarian House in the Centre sold, 415.  
    "    "    in West Upton, 415.  
    "    Society, First, 415.  
Universalist Society, 415.  
Upton, 409; a farming town, 417.

War, French and Indian, 416.  
    "    of the Revolution, 416.  
    "    of 1812-15, 416.  
    "    of the Rebels, 416-17.  
Warren House, 420.  
Waverley Building, 414.  
Weld, Rev. Thomas, 412, 414.  
West Part Mills, 411.  
West River, 409.  
Wood, Rev. Benjamin, 414; Sons of, 414-15.  
Woolen Mill, 418.

## TOWN OF UXBRIDGE.

Academy Building, 427.  
Act of Incorporation, 423.  
Adams, Benjamin, 436.  
Anti-Slavery Resolutions, 429-30.

Bank, 427.  
Baptist Society, 428.  
Baylies, Hon. William, 436.  
    "    Judge Nicholas, 436.  
Beef for the Army, 426.  
Bible in every Family, 429.  
Blackstone Bank of Uxbridge, Officers of, 435.  
    "    Canal, 427.  
Boundaries, 421.  
Bounties in 1776, 425-6.

Chapman, Rev. Hezekiah, 429.  
Christian Converts, 421.  
Church Edifice of 1728, 424.  
Clothing for Soldiers in 1778, 425.  
Cobb, Rev. William H., 430.  
Committee of Correspondence, Names of, 425.  
    "    "    Inspection, 425.  
Congregational Church Edifice, 424.  
    "    "    Pastors of, 429.

Cotton and Woolen Mills, 432.  
Cotton Mill, largest, 428.  
Delegates to Provincial Congress, 425.  
Depot and Station-house, 427.  
District Court, 427, 434.  
Dudley, William, Speaker, 422.  
Edifice, Church, 427.  
Evangelical Church, 429; Pastors of, 430.  
Female Academy, 434.  
Ferry, Rev. Mr., 423.  
Fish, letting them come up, 424.  
Great River, 424.  
Gospel Minister, 429.  
Hancock for Governor, 426.  
High School, 427.  
    "    Building, 427.  
Hiring Soldiers in 1779, 426.  
Incorporated, 422.  
Independence in May, 1776, 425.  
Indian Inhabitants, 421.  
Ironstone, 427, 429, 433.

- Library, Public, 427, 434.  
 Lieut.-Governor's Damage, 424.  
 Location of Meeting-house, 423.  
     "    of Town, 421.
- Meeting-house, 423-4.  
 Meeting, First, in Town, 423.  
 Methodist Church and Ministers, 431.  
 Mills and Mill-owners, 433-4.  
     "    "    Water-works, 432.  
 Money for the War, in 1779, 426.
- Names of deceased Soldiers, 1861-5, 435-6.  
 New Town Hall, 428.  
 Nipmuck or Blackstone River, 421.  
 Northbridge set off, 425.  
 North Uxbridge, 427-8, 432.  
     "    "    Baptist Church, and Pastors  
             of, 430-1.
- Officers, First Town, 423.  
 Old Quaker Meeting-house, 430.  
 One-horse Gig for Mails, 434.  
 Orthodox Minister, 422.  
 Owners of Mills, 432.
- Paget, Henry, Earl of Uxbridge, 422.  
 Polly and Dolly Taft, 428.  
 Petition for Town granted, 421.  
 Postmasters, 434.  
 Preston, Rev. Dr. Willard, 436.  
 Price for Service of Soldiers, 1780, 426-7.  
 Putnam, Judge A. A., 434.  
 Purl and Flip, 428.
- Quakers, The, Not to free, 423.
- Railroad, 427, 436.  
 Rawson, Abner, 426.  
 Representatives, 427, 436.  
     "    and Delegates in 1775-9, 426.  
 Residences, handsome, 428.  
 Rivers and Ponds, 427.  
 Rogerson Village, 428, 432.
- Roman Catholic Church, 431; Ministers of,  
 435.  
 Rum, fifteen Gallons, 423-4.
- Savings Bank, 435.  
 School, 424.  
 School Dame, 424.  
 School-house, handsome, 434.  
 Schools, graded and mixed, 434.  
 Spring Tavern, 428.  
 Square Miles in the Town, 427.  
 Squadron the Schools, 424.  
 Stage Coaches, 434.  
 State Aid, 435.  
 Stocks, Pair of, 424.  
 Stockwell, George A., 421.  
 Stores, Location of, 428.  
 Surface, uneven and rugged, 427.
- Taft's Twenty-two Children, 428.  
 Textile Fabrics, 431.  
 Thayer, Joseph, 436.  
 Three Rivers give Wealth, 427.  
 Three Silver Cups, 429.  
 Tories under the ban, 425.  
 Turnpike Company, 434.
- Unitarian Society, 430; Pastors of, 430.  
 Uxbridge, 421, 432.  
     "    Academy, 434.  
     "    against the Rebellion, 435.  
     "    Village, 427, 429.
- Wacantuck or Waentug, 421.  
 Wacantuck House, 428.  
 Washington in Uxbridge, 428; Letter of, 428.  
 Water-privileges, 431.  
 Ways and Roads, 424.  
 Webb, Elizabeth and Ruth, 429.  
     "    Rev. Nathan, 424, 429.  
 Woodward, George, teacher, 424.  
 Woolen and Cotton Mills, 432.  
 Woolen Manufactories, 428.

## TOWN OF WARREN.

- Andersonville Prisoners, 452.  
 Animals, wild, 438.  
 Area, 437.  
 Arrows, Stone, 438.  
 Arsenal, United States, 447.
- Baxter, Rev. Stephen, 446.  
 Bead-eyed Pappoose, 438.  
 Beauty of Mrs. Baxter, 446.  
 Bible the Chart of Life, 443.  
 Bliss, Rev. Isaac, 450.  
 Boots and Shoes, 453.
- Boulder, great, 439.  
 Brooklets and Ravines, 438.  
 Brown, Old John, 452.  
 Bruin, 438.  
 Buried sitting, 438.  
 Burt, Rev. Sylvester, 447.
- Cenotaphs, 455.  
 Cedar Hill, 439.  
 Cheese Factory, 454.  
 Christ the Beacon-light, 443.  
 Church, Congregational, 450.

Church, Congregational, in West Warren, 454.  
Colonel's Mountain, 439.

Cooper, Ensign Thomas, 437.

Cotton-yarn, 447.

Congregational Meeting-House, 450.

Coy's Hill, 441.

Cutter, Dr. Calvin, 452.

“ Miss Carrie E., 452.

“ Mrs. Eunice P., 437.

Dearborn's Powder-horn, 444.

Debby Palmer, 438.

Descendants of the Pilgrims, 446.

Early Settlers, their Toils, 441-2.

Eaton, Gen., 447

Elbow Tract, 437.

Elm of Col. Keyes, 440.

Emigrants, armed, to Kansas, 451.

Engraver Sykes, 448.

Families, Ancient, 454.

Fasting and Prayer, 443.

Fire Companies, 454.

First Birth, 443.

“ Marriage, 443.

French Fort, 444.

“ War, 1755-9, 443.

Halls, 454.

Hills and Prospects, 439.

Home Improvements, 446-7.

Homespun for Silk, 444.

Howe, William, 449.

Incorporation, 439.

Indian entranced in Prayer, 438.

“ Hoes, 448.

“ Village, 438.

“ Trail, 440.

Industries, Old and New, 449.

Iron, Quartz, Clay, etc., 441.

Iron-works, 447-8.

Johnson, Miss, a Missionary, 450.

Jones, Rev. Isaac, 443.

Kansas, armed Emigrants to, 452.

Kellogg, Capt. Joseph, 442.

Keyes, Capt. Solomon, 443.

Knowles' Steam-pumps, 453-4.

Latitude and Longitude, 439.

Library, Free Public, 455.

Location of the Town, 437.

Locomotive Engine, 446.

Lord Amherst's Camp, 444.

Love of Country and Home, 441.

Loyal but Free, 444.

Manufactures, Various, 453.

Marks' Mountain and Garrison, 437.

Mattawamppe, 437,

Meeting-House, First, 442; Second, 446.

“ “ Universalist, 449.

Methodist Church, 450.

“ “ in West Warren, 454.

Mineral Spring, 441.

Minute-Men in 1773, 444.

Mothers and Fathers, 455.

Nail Machine, 445.

Names of Soldiers in the Rebels' War, 453.

Navigation by Steam-power, 446.

Nipmuck Braves, 439.

“ Tribe, 440.

Notable Men, 455.

Officers in the Revolution, 444-5.

Old Bay-path, 440.

Old Mile-stone, 440.

Patrick, Isaac, Esq., 449.

Philip, 439.

Pierce, Rev. Dr. N. P., 445.

Politics on Stilts, 447.

Powder, Lead and Flints, 443.

Powder-mills built, 447.

Preaching and Schooling, 442.

Puritan Faith and Practice, 443.

Quaboag Indians, 437.

“ River, 439.

“ Seminary, 450.

Railroad, Boston and Albany, 439.

“ Opening, an Epoch, 450.

Reed, Hon. Nathan, 445.

Reed Street, 440.

Richardson, Nathan, 455.

Road or Bridge-path, 442.

Roman Catholics, 454.

Route of Burgoyne's Army, 440.

Route, Old, Old, 440.

Scenes of Rare Beauty, 439.

Schooling, 443.

School-house, 443.

Schools, High and Grammar, 450.

Shattoquis, 437.

Shaves and Chisels, 448.

Shays' Fiasco, 445.

Small-pox, 444.

Spear-heads, 438.

Stage-coach, 449.

Stratum of Sand, 441.

Strong, Rev. Thomas, 443.

Sweet Singer's Troth, 440.

Tanning, 448.



Tea-pot Closely hid, 444.  
 Temperance Society, 449.  
 Tidd, Charles P., 452.  
 Town Hall, 454-5.  
     " Meeting, First, 442.  
     " well watered, 441.  
 Trask, Rev. George, 450.  
 Truss, Howe's, 449.  
 Universalist Church, First, 449.  
     " " Second, 449.  
 Village, A New England, 439.  
 Warren, formerly Western, 437.

Warren, how made up, 437.  
 War-cloud Burst at Lexington, 444.  
 War of 1812, 447.  
     " of the Rebellion, 451-2.  
     " " Revolution, 444.  
 Washington at the Well, 440.  
 Western becomes Warren, 449.  
 West Warren Mills, 447.  
 White Farm, The, 442.  
 Willard, Dr. E., 455.  
 Winslow the Clockmaker, 448.  
 Women, Heroic, 451.  
 Wood, Dr. Obadiah, 443.  
 Woolen Mill, First, 447.

### TOWN OF WEBSTER.

Area, 456.  
 Baptist Church of Dudley, 458-9; Reorganized and Pastors, 459-60.  
 Bartlett, Luther and Stephen, 478.  
 Bear Hill, 456.  
 Boundaries, 456.  
 Bounties to Soldiers in 1861-5, 465-6.  
 Bridges, substantial, 457.  
 Brown, Moses, 469.  
 Catholic Parish (St. Louis), 462.  
     " " French (Sacred Heart), 462.  
 Chapin, Daniel, 458.  
 Chaubunagungamaug Lake, 457-70.  
 Congregational Church and Society, 461-2;  
     Pastors and Deacons of, 462.  
 Congregational Meeting-house, 462.  
 Cotton Manufactories, 470.  
 District Court, 476; Officers of, 476.  
 Drs. Noyes and Tenny, 478.  
 Episcopal Church, 465; Church Edifice and Rectors, 464.  
 Fenner's Mills, 473.  
 Fire Department, 477.  
 Five Cents Savings Bank, 476.  
 French or Mainexit River, 456.  
     " River Mill-privileges, 470.  
 G. A. R. Post 61, 477.  
 Gas-light Company, 477.  
 Green Mill, The, 470.  
 Hands Employed, 471-2.  
 High School, 465.  
 Hotels, 477.  
 Incorporation, 456, 471.  
 Industries, various, 476.  
 Ireson, Rev. Joseph, 478.

Jaconets, 472.  
 John Chase & Sons, 473.  
 Ladies' Aid Society, 466-7.  
 Library, Young People's, 477.  
 Linen Works, Stevens, 470.  
 Location of the Town, 456.  
 Lodges and Societies, 477.  
 Machines for Carding and Spinning, 469.  
 Merino Wool Factory Company, 470.  
 Methodist Church, 460; Pastors of, 460-1.  
     " Meeting-houses, 461.  
 Murdock, Mrs. Julia C., 463.  
 National Bank, First, 476.  
     " Centennial celebrated, 477.  
 Officers and Men against the Rebellion, 466.  
     " Town, during the Rebellion, 466.  
 Oxford, South Gore, 470.  
 Pegan Indians, 456.  
 Population, 458.  
 Post-Office, 476.  
 Prominent Men, 478.  
 Printing-Office, 477.  
 Railroads, 473, 478.  
 Real Estate rising, 478.  
 Reformed Methodists, 461.  
 Representatives, 458.  
 Roads, excellent, 457.  
 Samuel Slater & Sons, 471-2.  
 School Districts, 464-5.  
 Schools, 457; graded and mixed, 465.  
 Shoe Business, 473-5.  
 Slater, George B., 478.  
     " Samuel, 467-70.  
 Slaters, 458.  
 Soldiers killed in the Civil War, 467.  
 Surface diversified, 456.

Town Meeting, First, 457.  
 " Officers, " 457.  
 " wealthy, 478.  
 Union Mills, 472.  
 Universalist Society, 463 ; Ministers of, 463.  
 Villages, Four, 458.  
 Village, Depot, 470-1.  
 " East, 458, 470-2.  
 " North, 470-1.  
 Village, South, 458, 471.

Wakefield, Elder, 468.  
 Wakefield Family, 478.  
 War of the Rebellion, Action in Relation to, 465-6.  
 Water-works, 477.  
 Webster, honored Name, 456.  
 " how made up, 456.  
 " Steam-power Company, 475-6.  
 " "Weekly Times," 477.  
 Woolen Manufactures, 471.

# TOWN OF WESTBOROUGH.

Address in 1772, 486.  
 Advent Church and Ministers, 493.  
 Agricultural Society, 495.  
 Alarm List, 487.  
 Assabet River, 480.  
 Association, School, 493.  
 Baptist Society, First, Ministers of, 492.  
 Bell and Belfry, 487.  
 Boot and Shoe Manufacture, 498,  
 Boston Hill, 479.  
 Boundaries, 479 ; in 1717, 481.  
 Bounty List in 1781, 487.  
 Brigham, John, 480.  
 Bunker Hill, Soldiers at, 486-7.  
 Cemeteries, The Present, 489.  
 Chauncy Pond, 478.  
 Chauncy, Rev. Charles, 480.  
 Chronotype, 493.  
 Church organized, 483 ; Pastors of, 491.  
 Clock, 487.  
 Committee of Correspondence, 486.  
 Congregational Society, First, 491.  
 Cost of Civil War, 490.  
 Creed of the Church, 490.  
 Debating Society, Young Men's, 495-6.  
 De Forest, Rev. Heman P., 479, 491.  
 Educational History, 493.  
 Elmer, Rev. Mr., 482.  
 Evangelical Society, 491.  
 Families in 1767, 485.  
 Farm Products, 496.  
 Fay Farm, 480.  
 Field-piece, 486.  
 Fighting with Hardships, 481.  
 Fire Department, 497.  
 First Families, Number of, 481.  
 Forbes, Rev. J. P., 492.  
 Goodnow, Samuel, Grant to, 481.  
 Good Record in the Rebellion, 489.  
 Growth of the Town, 487.

Heads of Families, Names of, 481.  
 High School, 493.  
 Hildreth, Rev. Hosea, 491.  
 Hills, 479.  
 Hobomoc or Hococomoco Pond, 479.  
 House of Worship, Advent, 493.  
 Incorporation, 481.  
 Indian Raids, 480-1.  
 Industries, various, 497-9.  
 Library, Union Social, 495.  
 Little Brooks, 479-80.  
 Lyman, Hon. Theodore, 494.  
 March Election, first, 482.  
 March, The, to Lexington, 486.  
 Maynard, Hon. Horace, 499.  
 Mechanics' Association, 496.  
 Meeting-house, Baptist, 492.  
 " Congregational, 482, 484 ; enlarged, 485.  
 Meeting-house, Methodist, 492.  
 Mercantile Centre, 497.  
 Methodist Church, 490 ; Pastors of, 492.  
 Military Companies organized, 486.  
 " Spirit, 485, 488.  
 Milk and Milk Companies, 496.  
 Ministers, first settled, 481.  
 National Bank, 499.  
 New Burying Ground, 489.  
 Newspapers, 496.  
 Noon-house, 487.  
 North Precinct becomes Northborough, 485.  
 Old Burying Ground, 489.  
 Ordination Day a High Day, 490.  
 Organ, 488.  
 Orthodox Minister indispensable, 482.  
 Parkman, Mary Champney, 484.  
 " Rev. Ebenezer, 481, 483, 490.  
 Pastorate, long, 490.  
 Pauperism, 488.

- Pistol in Hand, 483-4.  
 Population in 1791, 487; in 1839, 489.  
 Pound and Stocks, 482.  
 Powder-house, 483.  
 Powder, Shot, &c., 486.  
 Precincts, Two, 484.  
  
 Railroad, Boston and Worcester, 488-9.  
 Rattlesnakes, 481.  
 Reform Club, 496.  
 Reservoir, 479.  
 Restoration, 490.  
 Revolutionary War, 485.  
 Rhum and Syder, 483.  
 Rice, Thomas, 480.  
     " Timothy a sachem, 481.  
 Robinson, Mr. John, installed, 490.  
 Rockwood, Mr. Elisha, ordained, 490.  
 Roman Catholic Church and Priests, 492-3.  
  
 Sabbath School, First, 490.  
 Salary and Settlement, 483.  
 Sandras Pond, 479.  
 Savings Bank, 499.  
 School-house, 484.  
 School-master, first, 484.  
 Situation, 479.  
 Sleighs, Manufacture of, 498.  
 Soldiers on Many Fields, 489-90.  
 Soldiers' Sewing Society, 489.  
  
 State Reform School, 493-5.  
 Steam-power, 497.  
 Stores, 497.  
 Straw Goods, 498-9.  
 Sudbury River, 480.  
 Surface, 479.  
 Swampy Land, 479.  
  
 Taverns, 488.  
 Temperance Reform, 490-1.  
 The Old Arcade, 485.  
 Thread Factory, 488.  
 Town Hall, 489.  
 Turnpike, Boston and Worcester, 488.  
  
 Unitarian Controversy, 491.  
     " House of Worship, 491; Ministers of, 491-2.  
  
 Village Improvement Society, 496.  
     " of Chauncy, 480.  
     " The, how located, 479.  
  
 War of the Rebellion, 489.  
 Wessonville, 488-9.  
 Westborough, part of Marlborough, 480.  
 Whitney, Eli, 499.  
 Willow Park, 485, 488.  
 Wolves and Wild-cats, 481.  
 Workhouse, 488.  
 Woman's Christian Temperance Union, 496.

### TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON.

- Apparatus, School, 507.  
 Baptist Society, 502; Pastors of, 502.  
 Beaman Bridge, 503.  
 Beaman, Ezra, 512.  
     " Maj. Ezra, 511-12, 516.  
     " Manufacturing Company, 506.  
     " Tavern, 512.  
  
 Bigelow, Erastus B., 513.  
 Boot-making, 507.  
 Boundaries, 500.  
 Bridges, 503.  
 Brick Church, 502.  
  
 Catholic Society, 502.  
 Calvinistic and Unitarian, 502.  
 Civil War, the Town's Action, 509.  
 Clarendon Mills, 503, 506.  
 Cold Spring, 514.  
 Congregational Church and Ministers of, 501-2.  
 Cotton-mill, first, 503.  
     " Sheetings, 504.  
 Crane, Rev. Alvan M., 502.  
 Cross, Rev. Joseph W., 502.  
  
 Derbuel, Father A. J., 502.  
 Dimensions of the Town, 500.  
  
 Elms and other Trees, 512.  
 Expenses in the Civil War, 511.  
  
 Fairbank, Rev. Francis J., 502.  
 Fanning Mills, 505.  
 Farms, 508.  
 Fertile Soil, 500.  
 Fires, 513.  
 Flour-mill, 505.  
  
 G. A. R. Post, 501.  
 Grains, 508.  
 Grist-mill, 505.  
  
 Harrisville, 503.  
 Harris, The Messrs. 503-4.  
 High Schools, 501.  
 Holbrook, E. W., 505.  
 Hosmer, Gen. E. M., 509.  
 Houghton, Horatio, Esq., 500.  
 Hunt, Dr. 510.  
  
 Incorporation, 500, 511.



Ladies, patriotic, 511.  
 Ladies' Shoes, 507.  
 Liberal Society, The, 502.  
 Library, Public, 501.  
 Lodges, 501.

Mechanics in 1808, 500.  
 Meeting-House, burned, 502, 511.  
 Methodist Church and Ministers, 502.  
 Military Company, 509.  
 Milk, 508.  
 Mills, burned, 503-4.

Nashua River, 503.

Oak Baskets, 507.  
 Oakdale, 507.  
 Oak Tree, 514.  
 Officers in the War, 510.  
 Organs, 508.

Pentecost, Rev. William, 502.  
 Pleasant Valley, 514.  
 Plunkett, Serg't Thomas, 510.  
 Population, 500.  
 Precinct, Second, 511.

Quinnepoxet River, 503.

Railroads, 510.  
 Religious Societies, 501.

Scenery diversified, 500.  
 School-houses, 501.  
 Settled by white Men, first, 500.  
 Shoddy, 504.  
 Soldiers raised in 1831-5, 509-10.  
 Stillwater River, 503.

Tenements, 504-5.  
 Thomas, Robert B., 512-13.  
 Thomas' Hall, 515.  
 Tornadoes, 508-9.  
 Trough, Stone watering, 512.  
 Twine and Wicking, 505.

Unitarian Ministers, 503.  
 Universalist " 503.

Valley Village, 501.  
 Vegetables, 508.  
 Villages, Seven, 500-1.  
 Votes at different Elections, 513-14.

Warfield, S. R., 503  
 Water-power, 503.  
 West Boylston, Location of, 500.  
 " Manufacturing Co., 503-4.  
 Wheeler, Dr. 510.  
 Woolen-mill, 504.

## TOWN OF WESTMINSTER.

Academy, 520.  
 Aged People, Many, 519.  
 Anti-Slavery, 522.

Bakery, Cracker, 521.  
 Barber, Rev. Joseph, 520.  
 Beginnings of a Town, 516.  
 Blacksmiths' Shops, 521.  
 Boundaries, 515.  
 Bowman, William, 516.  
 Brass Band, 522.  
 Briggs, Rev. Levi, 520.  
 Business Men, 525.

Carding Machine, 521.  
 Chairmaking, 521.  
 Church, Baptist, 520; Pastors of, 520;  
     Houses of Worship, 520.  
     " Congregational, 519.  
 Cider Mills, 525.  
 Clergymen, 525.  
 Coolidge, Rev. C. E., 519.

Dyke, Nicholas, Anecdote of, 517.

Economy and Prosperity, 516.

Estabrook, Capt. John, 518.  
 Everettville, 519.

Farming, 520.  
 Female Missionaries, 525.  
 Fire-Engines, 522.  
 French Politeness, 517.  
     " War in 1758, 516-7.  
 Fugitive Slaves, 522.  
 Fulling Mill, 521.

G. A. R. Post, 523.  
 Granite Monument, 523.  
 Graves' Fort, 516.  
 Grist Mill, 516.  
 Good Templars, Lodge of, 522.

Height of Land, 516.  
 High School, 520.  
 Home-made Implements, 521.  
 Howling Wilderness, 515.  
 Hudson, Rev. Charles, 520.

Incorporated as a District, 516.  
     " Town, 517.  
 Independence, 518.  
 Idle Persons not wanted, 516.

Indians lurking in the Woods, 516.  
 Inducements to settle, 515.  
 Jackson, Capt. Elisha, 518.  
 Linseed-Oil Mill, 521.  
 Location, 518.  
 Longevity, 519.  
 Mann, Rev. Cyrus, 519.  
 Manufactures, 520-21.  
 Marsh, Rev. Elisha, 519.  
 Men of Mark, 524-5.  
 Meeting-House, 515, 519.  
 Miles, Capt. Noah, 518.  
 " Gen. Nelson A., 523-4.  
 Military Companies in the Revolution, 518.  
 " Spirit, 522.  
 Militia Companies, North and South, 522.  
 Miller, Jonas, 515.  
 Mountains and Hills, 518-9.  
 Narragansett, No. 2, 515.  
 National Bank, 721.  
 Officers and Soldiers in the Rebellion, 523.  
 Pails, 521.  
 Paper and Chairs, 521.  
 Physicians, 525.  
 Population, 518.  
 Post-Office and Stores, 521.  
 Preparing for the Revolution, 517-18.  
 Preserves, 521.  
 Railroads, 518.

Religious Societies, 519.  
 Resolution passed in 1768, 516.  
 Rice, Rev. Asaph, 519.  
 Rifle Company, 522.  
 Saw-Mills, 521.  
 Scenery, 518-19.  
 Schools, 520.  
 Scrabble Hollow, 521.  
 Soldiers on a Tramp, 517.  
 Stage and Post Route, 518.  
 Summer Resort, 518.  
 Superfluities discarded, 516.  
 Tanneries, 521.  
 Tavern, Old, 518.  
 Teachers, 525.  
 Teams, forty or fifty put up, 518.  
 Temperance Reform, 522.  
 Town House a Memorial Hall, 523.  
 Troops and Supplies in the Revolution, 518.  
 Universal Restorationists and their Ministers, 520.  
 Villages, outlying, 515.  
 Visitors, Summer, 519.  
 Wachusett Mountain and Lake, 519.  
 Wachusettville, 515, 522.  
 Westminster, 515.  
 " Bread, 521.  
 " Guards, 522.  
 " Hotel, 522.  
 " South, 521.

### TOWN OF WINCHENDON.

Academy, Teachers of, 533.  
 Acres, number of, 528.  
 Adventurers, few on the ground, 528  
 Books, 546-7.  
 Baptist Church in New Boston, 539.  
 " " in the Village, 540.  
 Berry, Col. Thomas, 526-7.  
 Boston, Sympathy with, in 1774, 530.  
 Boundaries, 528.  
 Bridges, 534.  
 Brooks and Springs, 528.  
 Brown, Mrs., her Remark, 529.  
 " Rev. Joseph, 537, 542.  
 Bullardville, 537, 542.  
 Bullets, 531.  
 Bunker Hill, Soldiers at, 530.  
 Cemeteries, 541.  
 Centre, reserved, 526.  
 Character of the People, 529.  
 Choate, Capt. John, 526.

Church, Congregational, 537; Ministers of 533-9.  
 " North Congregational, 539-40.  
 " " " Ministers of, 539-40.  
 " of the Unity, 540, 546.  
 Clapboards, durable, 529.  
 Clarke, Rev. Benjamin F., 532.  
 Clark, Rev. Eber L., 538.  
 " " Elam, 538.  
 Climate, severe, 529.  
 Conditions of the Grant, 526.  
 Crosby, Esq., 531.  
 Day, Richard, 527, 530, 537.  
 Declaration of Independence, 530.  
 Denison Pond, 528.  
 Dome of the Wachusett, 528.  
 Education, 529.  
 Elevation, great, 528.  
 " of the Centre and the Village, 528.

- Equality of Condition, 529.  
 Establishments, thirty, 544.  
 Exhaustion of the War, 1775-83, 531.  
 Expedition to Canada, 526.  
 Fairbank, Henry, 547.  
     " Maj. Sidney, 544.  
 Families in 1761, 527.  
 Farms, 543.  
 Farming, 541.  
 Father Moran, 540.  
 Fathers of the Town, Names of, 527-8.  
 Four-horse Stage, 535.  
 French and Indian War, 527,  
 Gardner takes a Slice, 528.  
 Graduates, 547.  
 Grantees, Heirs of, 526.  
 Grant of Land, 526; Conditions of, 526.  
 Hale, Moses, 530, 537.  
 Hamblin, Rev. J. S., 540.  
 Hanaford, Rev. Mr., 540.  
 Hardships, 529.  
 Henshaw, Daniel, 532.  
 High School, 533.  
 Hills, 528.  
 Hobson, Capt. John, 526.  
 Hungry for Meat, 529.  
 Incorporation, 526-7.  
 Indian Allies of France, 527.  
 Inducements to Settle, 527.  
 Industries, various, 543-5.  
 Ipswich, 526.  
 Ipswich Canada, 526.  
 Intoxication the Cause of Poverty, 536.  
 Inventors, 545.  
 Isaac M. Murdock Block, 546.  
 Lawyers, 547.  
 Leaders of the People, 530.  
 Libraries, private and public, 542-3.  
 Location, 528.  
 Lodges, 547.  
 London, Eden, 536.  
 Lond, Charles A., 544.  
 Lyndeboro' Hills, 528.  
 Machine Shops, 544.  
 Mail on Horseback, 535.  
 Mason, Orlando, 544.  
 Meeting-house, 526, 529.  
     " " Second, 537.  
 Methodists, 539.  
 Military Company in 1775, 530.  
 Miller's River, 528, 542.  
 Mills and Factories, 543-5.  
 Minister, learned and orthodox, 526.  
 Ministers, 547.  
 Minute-men, 530.  
 Money for Schools, 532.  
 Monadnock, The Grand, 528.  
 Monomonauk Lake, 528.  
 Morton, Rev. Daniel O., 538.  
 Murdock, Capt. Ephraim, Jr., 544, 547.  
     " Col. William, 544.  
     " Ephraim, Esq., 543.  
     " Hon. Elisha, 532.  
     " I. M., 546.  
 Names of Soldiers in 1775, 530.  
 Naukeag Ponds, 528.  
 North Congregational Church, Ministers of,  
     539-40.  
 Pails, Tubs, Churns, 543.  
 Payson, Edward, 532.  
 Pepperell, Sir William, 526.  
 Physicians, 547.  
 Pillsbury, Rev. Levi, 538.  
 Pine Forests, 529.  
 Plain, long and sandy, 528.  
 Poor People cared for, 535-6.  
 Population in 1775, 530.  
     " " 1875, 541.  
 Posting a Tippler, 533.  
 Prominent Men, 547.  
 Railroad, Boston, Barre and Gardner, 535.  
     " Cheshire, 535.  
     " Monadnock, 535.  
     " Ware River, 535.  
 Refugees from Boston, 530.  
 Revolution, The Story of, 530-31.  
 Road to Earlington, 533.  
 Roads, first, 533; rough, 534.  
     " straightened, 534.  
 Rocks and Swamps, 529.  
 Roman Catholics, 540.  
 Royalston Leg, 528.  
 Scenery, 528-9.  
 School-house Meetings, 541.  
 Schoolmasters, 531.  
 Schools, 531-3.  
 Settlers, Names of, 527.  
 Shares, Sixty-three, 526.  
 Shays and his Friends, 531.  
 Shingle Town, 529.  
 Six Miles Square, 526.  
 Smith, Abijah, 527.  
 Spanish War, 526.  
 Spring Village, 532, 541-2.  
 Stimpson, Rev. Daniel, 529, 534.  
 Surface very uneven, 528.  
 Tanneries, 543.



Taverns, 534-5.  
 The Centre, 541.  
 Thoroughfare of Travel, 534.  
 Tilton, Lieut. Abraham, 526-7.

Unhappy Controversy, 537-8.  
 Unitarians: their Pastors, 540.

Views, Extensive, 528.  
 Village, The, 535, 542.  
 Villages, Three, 541-2.

War of the Rebellion, 545-6.  
 Wataties, The, 528.  
 Waterville, 532, 541-2.  
 Wheeler, Rev. Charles, 540.

Well-watered, 528.  
 White, Nelson D., 543-4.  
 Whitney, Hon. B. D., 544.  
     "    Phinehas, 531, 547.  
 Whiton, Dr. Israel, 529, 532.  
     "    Rev. Dr., 530-2.  
 Wilder, Hon. Abel, 529-30, 537.  
     "    Thomas, 527.  
 Winchendon, 526; Name of, 527.  
     "    Village, 532, 541.  
 Woods, Variety of, 529.  
 Wood-ware, 543.  
 Woolen Factories, 543.  
 Wolves, 529.  
 Workhouse, 536.

## CITY OF WORCESTER.

### A.

Arcadia, People of, 575.  
 Adams, John, 565, 608.  
     "    Rev. Zabdiel, 567.  
 Addresses, Patriotic, in 1861, 589.  
 Aldrich, P. Emory, 636.  
 Allen, Charles, 555, 624.  
     "    George, 624.  
     "    Samuel, 624.  
 American Political Society, 578.  
 Ames Plow Company, 660.  
 Ammunition, Stock of, 579.  
 Armed Resistance, 582.  
 Ancient Inhabitants, rights of, 552.  
 Ancient Order of Hibernians, 656.  
 Arcade Malleable Iron Company, 659.  
 Argillaceous Slate, 564.  
 Artillery Company, 582.  
 Asylum for Chronic Insane, 562, 650.  
 Austin, Samuel, 566.

### B.

Bradley's, Osgood, Car Works, 665.  
 Brass and Iron Castings, 659.  
 Brick Church on Court Hill, 568.  
 Brick-making, 563.  
 Broadcloths, 658.  
 Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, 655.  
     "    "    Firemen, 655.  
 Brown, Alvirus, 599.  
 Building, Stone, 564.  
 Bullock, Alex. H., 636.  
 Burial Grounds, 555-6.  
     "    Places, 639.  
 Burnside, Samuel M., 555.  
 Burr, Rev. Mr., 556, 565.  
 Bushnell, George, 571.  
 Bacon, Peter C., 635.  
 Baldwin, John D., 638.

Ball, Phinehas, 637.  
 Bancroft, Aaron, 566-7.  
 Banks, National, 651-2.  
     "    Savings, 651-2.  
 Baptist Church, First, and Pastors of, 568.  
     "    "    Second, and Pastors of, 568.  
     "    Meeting-house, 568.  
     "    Society, First, 568.  
 Barton, Ira M., 626.  
     "    William S., 556.  
 Battalion of Rifles, 589.  
 Bear Brook, 562.  
 Beaver Brook, 562.  
 Belcher, Gov., 565.  
 Bentley, Elder Wm., 568.  
 Bernard, Gov., 578.  
 Bethel for Colored People, 572.  
 Bigelow, Timothy, 582, 620.  
 Boyden, John, 559.  
 Biographical Sketches, 618.  
 Blackbirds, Jays and Rattlesnakes, 553.  
 Blackstone Canal, 563.  
     "    River, 563.  
 Blake, Francis, 625.  
     "    James B., 637.  
 Blanchard, Henry, 571.  
 Board of Trade, 654.  
 Boots and Shoes, 636-7.  
 Boston Pamphlet, 578.  
     "    and Worcester Turnpike, 561.  
     "    and New York Mail, 558.  
 Bounties for Soldiers, 584.  
 Bounties for Wild Animals, 556.  
 Bounties in 1779, 585.

### C.

Calls for Troops responded to, 585.  
 Calvinist Church, 568.  
 Camp Furniture, 663.

Camp Lincoln, 592.  
     " of Instruction, 591.  
 Common House, 556.  
 Cards for Cotton and Wool, 657.  
 Catholic Believers, 569.  
     " Churches, 569.  
     " Priests and Curates, 569, 572.  
 Cemetery, Hope, 639.  
     " Mechanic Street, 639.  
     " Pine Meadow, 639.  
     " Rural, 639.  
 Central Church Mission, 572.  
 Chandler, Col., 574-5.  
     " Gardner, 575.  
     " John, 618.  
     " John, Jr., 618.  
     " John, 3d, 618.  
     " Major John, 573.  
 Chapin, Henry, 634-5.  
 Chaplains, Names of, 597-8.  
 Chase, Anthony, 632.  
     " Charles A., 548.  
 Children's Friend Society, 655.  
 Choir, regular, 565.  
 Church Covenant, 565.  
     " of the Immaculate Conception, 572.  
     " of the Unity, 571.  
     " Old South, Pastors of, 566.  
 City Charter, Petition for, 559.  
     " Debt in 1879, 559.  
     " Hall, 554-5.  
     " Hospital, 649-50.  
 Claims of the Commonwealth, 550.  
 Clergymen of Worcester, Tribute to, 572.  
 Clocks, Church and Tower, 637.  
 Coal-mine, 563.  
 Coes' Pond, 562.  
     " Wrench, 635-6.  
 College of the Holy Cross, 572.  
 Committee of Correspondence, 578-9.  
     " " Settlement, 551.  
 Common, The, 555.  
 Confederation, The, approved, 585.  
 Congregational Singing, 565.  
     " Way, 563.  
 Constitution of the State, approved, 586.  
 Continentals, 641.  
 Convention at Concord, 585.  
 Co-operative Saving Fund, 654.  
 Coral Street Church, 572.  
 Corn and Saw Mills, 656.  
 Cotton Spinning and Weaving, 657.  
 Counter-Protest, 581.  
 County Conventions in 1782-4-6, 586.  
 Court House, Stone, 564.  
 Court of Common Pleas, 582.  
 Crafts, Edwin, 582.

Creed and Covenant, new, 566.  
 Crompton Loom Works, 664-5.  
 Crown Point attacked, 575.  
 Cunard Company, 616.  
 Cunning Miner, 563.  
 Curtis, Albert, 636.  
 Curtis' Pond, 562.  
     " Works, 666.

## D.

Dale Hospital, 600.  
 Dark Granite, Supply of, 563-4.  
 Davis, Isaac, 558, 589, 635-61.  
     " John, 554, 626.  
     " J. C. B., 626.  
 Declaration of Independence Received, 584.  
 Descendants of Scotch-Irish, Names of, 553.  
 Devens, Charles, Jr., 589, 634.  
 Dewey, Francis H., 634.  
 Difference in Religious Faith, 566.  
 Digory, Sergeant, 552.  
     " wife of, killed, 552.  
 Directory, Annual, 558.  
 Disciples of Christ, 570; Elders of, 570.  
 Disorderly Beasts, Pound for, 553.  
 Dollar of our Fathers, Depreciated, 586.  
 Doolittle, Ephraim, 576.  
 Drafted Men, 593.  
 Drawing in Schools, 614.  
 D. Shattuck's Hovel, 552.  
 Duties on Paper, Tea, &c., 577.

## E.

Earle, Edward, 638.  
     " Pliny, 632.  
 Ecclesiastical Council, 564.  
 Education, 606.  
 Emmett Guards, 589-90; Officers of, 589-90.  
 English and Scotch Societies, 656.  
     " Goods not to be purchased, 579.  
 Envelopes, Makers of, 663.  
 Episcopal Church, 569.  
     " All Saints, 569.  
     " enlarged, 569.  
     " New, 569.  
     " Rectors of, 569.  
 Excise on Wines and Spirits, 576.

## F.

Fall of Richmond caused Joy, 600.  
 Fifth Battery, 641.  
 Fifteenth Regiment, 591-9.  
 Fifty-first " 597.  
 Fifty-seventh " 597.  
 Fire-Arms, 667.  
 Fire Department, 599, 647-9.  
     " Insurance Companies, 653.

Fire Society, 648.  
 First Heavy Artillery, 597.  
 Fitchburg, 554.  
 Fitton, James, 569.  
 Flagg, Benjamin, 583.  
     " Samuel, 554.  
 Floating Bridge, 561.  
 Foreign Goods Discarded, 577.  
 Fort William Henry, 575.  
 Fourth Heavy Artillery, 597.  
 Fourth of July Celebration in 1865, 600-1.  
 Freemasons, 555.  
 Free-Soil Party, 555.  
 French and Indian Wars, 554.  
     " Catholics, 569.  
     " Fleet, 575.  
 Friends, Society of, 570.  
 Furnaces, 563.

## G.

Gage, General, 583.  
 Gardner, Andrew, 564.  
 G. A. R. Post, 641.  
 Garrison Houses, 551.  
 Gas Works, 654.  
 General Court, 549, 550-52.  
 German Organizations, 656.  
 Gigantic Rebellion, 588.  
 Gilbert Loom Company, 665.  
 Gleason, Benjamin, 574.  
 Goodrich, Charles A., 566.  
 Going, Jonathan, 568.  
 Gookin, Daniel, 550-2.  
 Goose, Effigy of, 561.  
 Gould, George H., 571.  
 Government of Laws, 576.  
 Grace Church, 572.  
 Granite for Paving, 559.  
     " light-colored, 564.  
 Grammar (Latin) School, 610.  
     " School, 609.  
 Gravestones, 556.  
 Green, John, 622.  
     " William, 622-3.  
 Grist-Mill, 562.  
 Grout, John W., killed, 591.  
 Grove and Lincoln streets, 551.

## H.

Hale, Edward Everett, 571.  
 Hamilton, Chas. A., 559.  
     " " " City Clerk, 559.  
 Harrington, Timothy, 567.  
 Harris, Clarendon, 558.  
 Haven, S. Foster, Jr., killed, 591.  
 Heavy Artillery, 640.  
 Henchman, Daniel, 618.  
 Hersey, Chas., 548.

Henchman Street, 548.  
 Heywood, Daniel, 574.  
     " " pursuing Indians, 574.  
 Hibernian Guards, 656.  
 High School-house (new), 612.  
 Hill, Alonzo, 567.  
 Hills of Worcester, 560.  
 History of Worcester, 548.  
 Hitchcock, Prof., 560.  
 Hoar, Geo. F., 634.  
     " " (speech of), 591.  
 Home for Old Men, 651.  
     " " Women, 651.  
 Hull, A. B., 566.  
 Huntington, Wm. R., 569.

## I.

Illumination of City, 600.  
 Incorporation of City, 559.  
 Incursions of French, 573.  
 Independence declared, 584.  
 Indians in woods, 573.  
     " People in fear of, 573.  
     " Teas not to be used, 579.  
 Indian Neighbors, 573.  
 Insane Retreat (private), 650-1.  
 Insurance Fire Patrol, 648.  
 Insurgents in Worcester dislodged, 583.  
 Instructions to Capt. Bigelow,—copy of, 582.  
     " to Joshua Bigelow, 576-9.  
 Irish Laborers, 569.  
     " and German Companies, 593.  
     " Associations, 656.  
     " Families, 553.  
 Iron Foundries, 659.  
 Iron-working Machinery, 664.  
 Island District, 562.

## J.

Jaques, Geo., 649.  
 Jillson, Clark, 638.  
 Jo Bill Road, 548.  
 Jones, Geo. (City Marshal), 559.  
 Journey to Canada, 552.  
 Junction Foundry Co., 659.

## K.

Kettle Brook, 562.  
 King Philip, 551.  
     " Philip's War, 573.  
 Knights and Ladies of Honor, 656.  
     " of Honor, 655-6.  
 Knowles Steam Pumps, 665.  
 Knowlton, John S. C., 635.

## L.

Labrador Tea, 577.  
 Ladies, patriotic, 577.



Lafayette's Reception, 588.  
 Lamson, Chas. M., 571.  
 Landscape, diversity of, 559.  
 Lasts, shoe, 667.  
 Latin Grammar School, 610.  
 " " " opposed, 577.  
 League and Covenant, solemn, 579.  
 Leather Belting, 666.  
 Libraries, 641-4.  
 Library, Green, 642.  
 " Historical Society, 644.  
 " Mechanics' Association, 643.  
 " Society of Antiquity, 644.  
 " Social, 641.  
 " Worcester Lyceum, 642.  
 Life Insurance Company, 654.  
 Light Infantry, 640.  
 " " march through Baltimore, 589.  
 " " Officers of, 589.  
 " " ordered to march, 589.  
 Lincoln, Daniel W., 636.  
 " D. Waldo, 549.  
 " Gov. Levi, 623.  
 " Levi, 1st, 623.  
 " Levi, 559.  
 " Square, 553.  
 " Street, 548.  
 " William, 548, 563.  
 Location of Mechanic Street, 557.  
 Long Pastorate of Dr. Bancroft, 567.  
 Looms, 665.  
 Loyalists, Copy of protest, 581.  
 " forever banished, 585.  
 " or Tories, 577.  
 " protest of, 580.  
 " under watch, 583.  
 Lovell, Albert A., 548.  
 Lynde Brook, 562.

## M.

Maccarty, Thaddeus, 565-583.  
 Main Street, Paving of, 559.  
 Malt House, 557.  
 Manufactures, Great variety, 658.  
 " Names of, 656-660.  
 Marauding Ruffians, Guarded against, 599.  
 Marlborough, 548.  
 Masonic Lodges, 655.  
 Massachusetts Spy, 584.  
 McFarland, Daniel, 575.  
 McFarland, Warren, 659.  
 Mears, D. O., 571.  
 Mechanics' Association, 643.  
 Meeting-house, Destroyed, 553.  
 Memorial Hospital, 651.  
 Merrick Pliny, 559, 633-4.  
 Merrill, J. H., 569.

Merriman, Daniel, 569.  
 Metallic Reeds, 666.  
 Metals, Sparkling, 563.  
 Methodist Episcopal Pastors, 569.  
 " Society, Second, 571.  
 Military Companies, 587-8, 640.  
 " " Heavy Artillery, 640.  
 " " City Guards, 641.  
 " " Continentals, 641.  
 " " Fifth Battery, 641.  
 " " Guards, 640.  
 " " Harrison Guards, 641.  
 " " Light Infantry, 640.  
 " " Rifle Corps, 640.  
 " Spirit in 1798, 587.  
 Miller, Henry W. 558.  
 " Rodney A., 559, 566.  
 Mill-brook, 557, 561.  
 " sites at Quinsigamond Village, 657.  
 Ministerial Lands, 557.  
 Minute-men, Company of, 582.  
 " march of, 583.  
 Mission Chapel Society, 571.  
 Moen Philip L., 660.  
 Morse, Augustus, 592.  
 Mourning at Death of President Lincoln, 600.

## N.

National Ægis, 558.  
 New Worcester, 562.  
 Nipmuck Tribes, 551.  
 North End Baptist Mission, 572.  
 North Pond, 562.  
 Notre Dame Church (Catholic), 572.  
 " Sisters of, 572.  
 Nowell, Increase, 549.  
 Nowell's Right, 549.  
 Nowland, Wm. J., 558.  
 Noyes, Ensign Thomas, 549.  
 Number of Men in Revolution, 586.

## O.

Obligation to be Armed, 579.  
 Obliterating a Record, 580.  
 Odd Fellows Lodges, 655.  
 Old Indian Fort, 551.  
 " Men's Home, 651.  
 " Parish, Resisted separation, 567.  
 " Pound and Hearse House, 557.  
 " South Church, 554-5.  
 Oliver Peter, Chief Justice, 579.  
 " " to be impeached, 579.  
 Oread Institute, 564.  
 Organ Companies, 666.

## P.

Packachoag Hill, 552-3.  
 Paine, Nathaniel, 548, 580.

Paines's Brook, 561.  
 Paine, Timothy, 581, 619.  
 " " Compelled to read his resignation, 582.  
 Paper machinery, 659.  
 Parish Church, 555.  
 Patriotic Assembly on the Green, 584.  
 Patriotism stronger than Tea, 578.  
 Peat metal, 563.  
 Pepperell, William, 574.  
 Personal Estate, 1879, 559.  
 Petition of Gershom Rice, 573-4.  
 Phillips, Geo. W., 571.  
 Pickering, George, 569.  
 Piedmont Church, 571.  
 Plows and Mowing Machines, 660.  
 Plymouth Church, 571.  
 Police Department, 650.  
 Polls in 1879, 559.  
 Poor Farm, 650.  
 Population, and Increase of, 553, 558-9.  
 Potash Works, 657.  
 Potatoes brought to Worcester, 553.  
 Pound, 556.  
 Power, J. J., 572.  
 Pratt, Chas. B., 638-9.  
 " Sumner, 572.  
 Preaching on Common by Whitefield, 565.  
 Primeau, J. B., 572.  
 Prisoners of War in Worcester Jail, 583.  
 Privations in the Revolution, 586.  
 Putnam, James, 575, 581, 624-5.

## Q.

Queen Anne's War, 573.  
 Quinsigamond Lake, 548, 561, 563.

## R.

Railroads, 614-18.  
 Railroad, Boston, Barre and Gardner, 617.  
 " " and Worcester, 614-15.  
 " Nashua, 563.  
 " Norwich and Worcester, 616.  
 " Providence and Worcester, 616.  
 " Western, 615-16.  
 " Worcester and Nashua, 617.  
 " " and Shrewsbury, 617.  
 " Horse, 617-18.  
 Ramshorn Brook, 562.  
 Ready-made Clothing, 667.  
 Report of Committee, 550.  
 Reservoir carried away, 646-7.  
 Re-settlement of the Town, 552.  
 Retreat for the Insane, Private, 550-1.  
 Return of Peace Celebrated, 586.  
 Revolution, War of, 576.  
 Rice, Gershom, 552.

Rice, Jonas, 552.  
 " Wm. W., 636.  
 Richardson, Geo. W., 635.  
 " Manufacturing Company, 660.  
 " Rev. Merrill, 571.  
 Rifle Corps, 640.  
 Rights of the Indians, 550.  
 Roll of Honor, 602.  
 Route through Worcester, 548.  
 Royalists, Defeated by Whigs, 579.  
 " Protests of, 579.  
 " Retired to Holden, 582.  
 " to be impeached, 579.

## S.

Safe Deposit and Trust Company, 652.  
 Sagatapscott Hill, 552.  
 Salem Street Church, 571.  
 Salisbury, Madame, 628.  
 " Pond, 561.  
 " Stephen, 627.  
 Sawyer, Joseph, 552.  
 School Children, annual address to, 611.  
 " " number of, 613.  
 " Committee, first, 607.  
 " Dame, 607.  
 " House, 556-608.  
 " Houses, number of, 613.  
 " Masters, first, 606-7.  
 " System, Committee upon, 608.  
 Schools, 606-614.  
 " appropriation for in 1781, 609.  
 " Classical and English High, 611.  
 " " " teachers of, 612.  
 " Cost of, 613-14.  
 " in 1848, 611.  
 " Overseers of, 610.  
 " Private, excellent, 613.  
 Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, 553.  
 Seats in Church according to rank, 565.  
 Second Adventists, 570.  
 " Regiment Heavy Artillery, 597.  
 " " " officers of, 597.  
 Serjent Farm, 552.  
 Selectmen, first names of, 553.  
 Shippen, Rev. Rush R., 571.  
 Slavery, opposition to, 577.  
 Social Library, 641.  
 Société St. Jean Baptiste, 656.  
 Society of Antiquity, 644.  
 " " Friends, 570.  
 " " " accepted Ministers of, 570.  
 " " " Meeting-House of, 570.  
 Soldiers' Monument, addresses by Gov. Bullock and Gen. Devens, 602.  
 " " Cost of, 602.

Soldiers' Monument Dedicated, 602.  
 " " Erected, 601.  
 " " Inscription upon, 602.  
 " at Quebec, 583.  
 " in last French and Indian War, 575.  
 " " 1776, 583.  
 " of Worcester at Hoosick, 574.  
 " petitioned for, 573.  
 Solemn League and Covenant, 579.  
 South Ledge, 564.  
 " Worcester, 562, 572.  
 Sprague, Col. A. B. R., 597.  
 Stage Routes, 558.  
 St. Ann's Church (Catholic), 572.  
 St. John's, " " 569.  
 St. Matthew's Chapel (Episcopal), 572.  
 St. " " " rectors of, 572.  
 St. Paul's Church (Catholic), 572.  
 Stamp Act, 576.  
 State Constitution rejected, 585.  
 " Conventions, 555.  
 " Guard, The, 599.  
 " Lunatic Hospital, 650.  
 " Mutual Life Assurance Company, 654.  
 " Street Massacre, 578.  
 Steam-Engines and Boilers, 666.  
 Stirring Events in Boston, 578.  
 Superior Court, Sessions prevented, 578.

## T.

Tannery, 657.  
 Tatnuck, 550.  
 " Brook, 562.  
 Temperance Lodges and Divisions, 655.  
 " Ticket, 559.  
 Thayer, Adin, 634.  
 Theology, Strict, 566.  
 Thief Detecting Association, 654.  
 Third Battalion left for the Field, 590.  
 Thirty-Fourth Reg't, 594.  
 " " " Flag presented to, 595.  
 " " " History of, by Gen.  
 Lincoln, 594.  
 " " " Officers of, 595.  
 " " " " and men killed,  
 595.  
 Thirty-Sixth Reg't, Campaigns of, 595.  
 " " " Officers of, 595.  
 Three months' men re-enlisted, 590.  
 Thomas, Isaiah, 628-31-33.  
 To Arms, To Arms, 583.  
 Toasts in 1776, 584-5.  
 Toll Gate, 561.  
 Town and Parish identified, 564.  
 Town Hall, 554.  
 " Meeting, 1st, 553.  
 " Officers, 553.

Training Place, 556.  
 Trinitarians, 567.  
 Trinity Church, (Meth.), 569.  
 Twenty-Fifth Reg't, 593.  
 " " " Officers of, 593.  
 " " " " and men killed,  
 594.  
 Twenty-First Reg't, 592.  
 " " " Services and losses, 593.  
 Typographical Union, 656.

## U.

Union Church, 570.  
 " " Pastors of, 570-1.  
 " League, 599.  
 " Water Metre Co., 667.  
 Unitarian Denominations, 567.  
 " Views, 567.  
 Universalist Society, 570  
 Upton, Edwin, 593.

## V.

Valley of Worcester, 560-1.  
 Verry, Geo. F., 638.

## W.

Waldo, Cornelius, 557.  
 " Daniel, 568, 628, 660.  
 Wall, Caleb A., 548.  
 Ward, Geo. H., 591.  
 War of the Revolution, 576.  
 " of 1812, 587.  
 " of the Rebellion, 589.  
 " with Mexico, 1845-7, 588.  
 Washburn and Moen Manufacturing Com-  
 pany, 561.  
 Washburn, Emory, 626.  
 " Ichabod, 571, 660-1.  
 " Iron Company, 659.  
 Washington's Reception, 587.  
 Water Power, trebled, 657.  
 " Works, 644-7.  
 Weasel Brook, 561.  
 Webster Square Church, 572.  
 Whitefield, George, 565.  
 White, Thomas, 565.  
 Wilder, Joseph, 554.  
 Wilson, Henry, 555.  
 " James, 568.  
 Wing, John, 562.  
 Wire Company, 661-2.  
 " Varieties of, 661.  
 Woodward, Samuel B., 626-7.  
 Wood-working Machinery, 663-4.  
 Woonaskochu Sagamore, 550.  
 Worcester, (Wegera-ceaster), 551.  
 " Coal Co., 563,



Worcester Depot, Munitions of War, 582.

" In the Civil War, 598.

" Ladies ever active, 598.

" Lyceum Library, 642.

" Men in the Navy, 598.

" opposed to Shays, 587.

" Railway Co., 563.

" Red Letter Day, 584.

" Shire Town, 554.

" Soldiers' Relief Commission, 598.

" " Rest, 598.

Worcester, Spirit of the People during the  
Civil War, 598.

" Village Directory, 558.

" " " in 1829, 558.

" " Register, 557.

Y.

Young Men's Christian Association, 634-5.

Young Men Moving in, 554.

Z.

Zion's Church, 571.











